

# SPECIAL

## GRADUATION 2019 EDITION

# THE HEIGHTS



Summer 2019

A Publication of the Summit Bible College Alumni Association

## SUMMIT BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATION

Our Favorite Time of Year

### SUMMIT — A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

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### GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

Graduates share about  
their SBC experience!

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### POWER-FULL PARENTING CONFERENCE

A must not miss  
conference for every parent!  
See the details inside!

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### DEVOTIONAL MOMENT

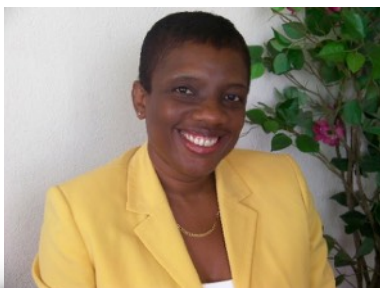
A Way In The Wilderness

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### LAST WORD

World-Changers Wanted!  
The challenges are not greater  
than our God!

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### GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

*Read the testimonies of our  
graduates whose time in  
Summit greatly impacted  
their lives and equipped  
them for God's vision for  
their lives!*



### POWER-FULL PARENTING SEMINAR

# FIRST WORD

## Summit - A Transformative Experience

Once again, students robed in black gowns with stoles of blue, red or gold walk across the stage to receive their coveted degrees, the acknowledgment that the years of hard work (15 total years from start to finish in the case of one graduate whose testimony you'll read) have paid off. Graduates from Barbados to Bakersfield and beyond share in an experience, attended with family and friends, which marks the day they will launch out to be world-changers, and fulfill the vision God has given them to fulfill.

Some have achieved this honor through great trials and even the loss of loved ones, while others finally fulfilled a goal long delayed by ministry obligations. Nevertheless, they have now completed one journey and will launch out on another which will culminate in the fulfillment of God's plan for their lives.

Emotions run high during this ceremony, as graduates and family members recall the long nights of study and set backs which threatened their progress along the way. Sacrifices were made and determination was tested, but at long last the course was run and the finish line crossed. The race is not over; only a leg of the journey completed as a new chapter of service opens for each of them.

Summit graduates are indeed world-changers, and world-changers are needed, as you'll see in the last article of this edition of *The Heights*. The challenges this generation of believers face are significant, making the value of their labors all the greater. Sacrifices will again be made and determination tested as they move forward into their respective areas of service. However, they do not move forward alone. They have become a part of something that will remain with them throughout their lives. They are a part of a company of graduates, many of whom have walked the stage in years before and others who will follow after. The relationships, as well as the truths they've learned, will continue to strengthen and encourage them in their journey.

Summit is a transformative experience, as you'll hear from many of the graduates' testimonies, and the bonds between student and staff last much longer than their years in the classroom. After all, Christianity is a team endeavor. We each represent a part of Christ's body which needs connection to the other members if we're to fulfill our function.

As you read these graduates' testimonies, we pray that your heart will be stirred up to make the commitment to prepare yourself for God's purpose. You can go online or call us and begin the same journey that these graduates have gone on and experience the same life-changing encounter they share about in their stories. God does not call the equipped, but rather He equips those whom He calls.

That is where Summit comes in. Summit Bible College has been answering the call to equip Christian leaders to help those in need since 1996. Thousands have attended and become world-changers in the harvest fields to which they were called. What about you?



## In this edition:

### FIRST WORD: SUMMIT - A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE!

Summit is more than a school experience. It is a transformative experience that shapes the lives of our graduates for life

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### GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

Read how their time at Summit touched the lives of some of our graduates and prepared them for the vision God has for their lives.

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### POWER-FULL PARENTING CONFERENCE!

Someone will be the primary influence in the lives of your children. God has called you to be that voice.

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### DEVOTIONAL MOMENT

A Way In The Wilderness - Pursuing God's plan into the unknown.

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### LAST WORD

World-Changers Wanted! In an hour where the influence of the Church has been marginalized in the west, we need all believers equipped to do their part to shape our world.

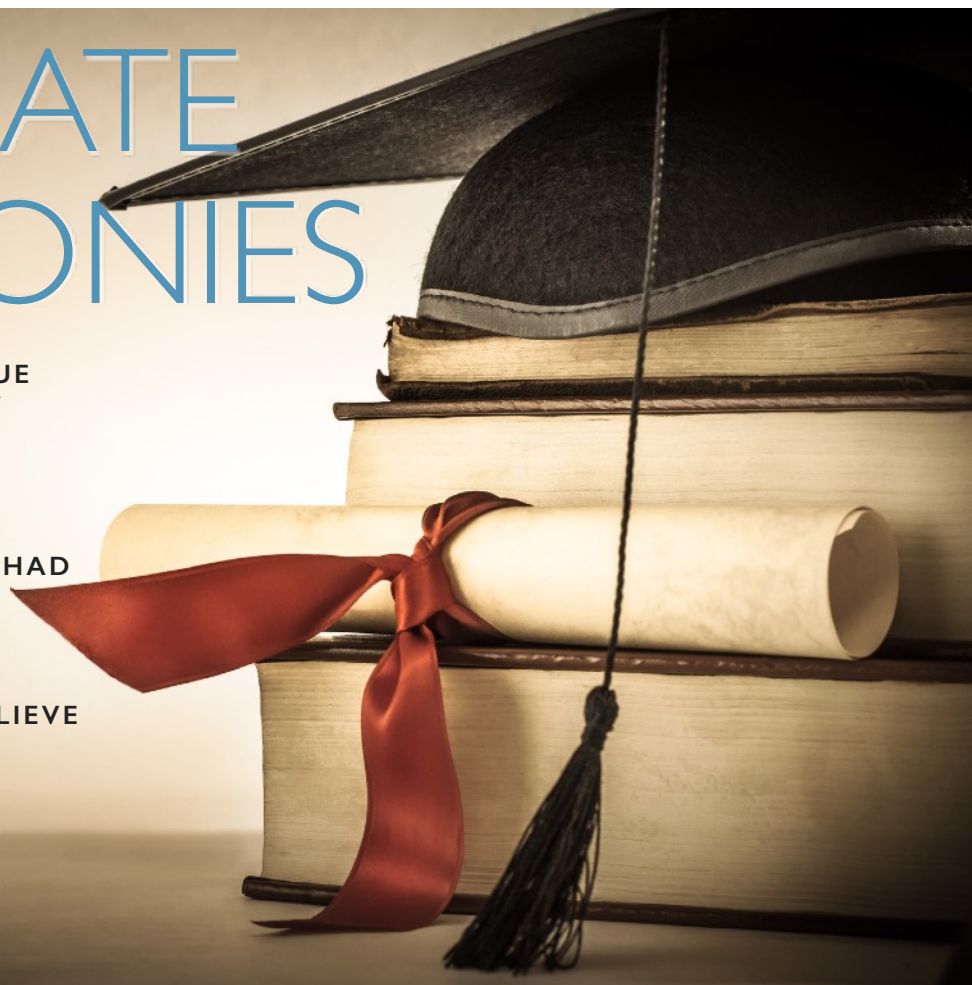
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# GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

EACH GRADUATE HAS A UNIQUE JOURNEY AND IS IMPACTED BY THEIR TIME AT SUMMIT BIBLE COLLEGE DIFFERENTLY. BUT A COMMON THREAD TO ALL OF THEIR STORIES IS THE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE THEY HAD WHILE HERE.

WE ASKED A NUMBER OF OUR GRADUATES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH US. WE BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND THEM AS ENCOURAGING AS WE DID...



## Cheryl G. Moore (Barbados)

### Doctor of Divinity

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*Cheryl is the head of a new ministry called Chosen Generation Ministry International. Here she shares how Summit Bible College was able to uniquely meet her educational needs to prepare her for God's purpose.*



Movement! That is the word that comes to mind when I think about Summit Bible College (SBC). In 2017 I felt in my spirit that the time had come for me to pursue a doctorate program with a biblical focus. I knew that I did not want hardcore theology, but rather a program that was more well-rounded.

As I started my journey to pursue a doctorate program, I met some stumbling blocks in that all of the colleges I researched were too expensive, did not offer an extensive online program or the prospectus did not appeal to my desire. I decided at a point to relinquish my search, let go and let God.

It was when I decided to allow God to direct me to a college, someone sent me an email with a link to Summit Bible College. My life has not been the same since then.

[Testimonies Continued...](#)

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I downloaded the prospectus but still did not pursue immediately. However, receiving a call from someone by the name of Caitlin Hashim changed the course of my life. Caitlin was amazing, showing care and concern as I explained my situation to her, and she offered to pray for me. Having prayed together, she sought to tailor a package to my situation as a prospective student residing out of State, in the island of Barbados, West Indies. I knew from that moment that Summit Bible College was where Father wanted me to be. As I registered for the program, I was aided by Dr. Donald Hedges who ably assisted me in choosing the courses for my Doctor of Divinity program, to be completed within eighteen months online.

Throughout my time with SBC, I have been stretched beyond measure and have not only grown spiritually, but in every area of my life. The online courses are very detailed and relevant and have caused me to build a stronger relationship with the Holy Spirit as I leaned on Him, allowing me to complete the program with great success.

After I started SBC, based on the various studies, I felt the courage to pursue my God given vision of starting a ministry, and on sharing the vision with others, six of us brought *Chosen Generation Ministry International (CGMI)* into reality in January 2018. I now see Father pushing me further into my destiny.

I would highly recommend SBC to anyone who desire to grow in ministry, find their God given purpose, and to make a difference in the world. Thank you, SBC, for your God given focus and for allowing the Holy Spirit through you to touch and change lives across the globe for the glory of God. May your vision be perpetual, your borders enlarged and strengthened, and your legacy be strong in the earth. Thanks & Blessings!

## Max Van Dyke

### Master's in Theology in Pastoral Leadership and Doctor of Divinity

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*Pastor Max is the lead pastor of Christ Cathedral in Bakersfield, California, as well as a professor at Summit Bible College.*



I never thought I would one day have my master's and doctorate! As I write this unless I really blow it, I will graduate the 29th of June.

I'm the guy who let the lure of life cost me my college degree. Beer, women and Jimmy Hendrix... what more could a guy ask for? Then I found Jesus and 39 years later let myself get talked into getting my advanced degrees.

I went to the School of Hard Knocks as I learned who I was in Christ. Dr. David Hall, a very close friend, was getting his degree, and I got inspired! You never know who you are going to inspire along the way. Then 18 months into the process I became the Lead Pastor at Christ Cathedral here in Bakersfield and stepped into a well-established church that had many changes in its future. I kept plugging away, using the Pastors program to my benefit. Dr. Hedges has extended so much grace that if you go look up *grace* in the dictionary, it shows his picture. Thanks, Dr. Hedges!

About 2/3 of the way through to my degree I got better acquainted with Dr. Jeff Victor. I came to understand his heart! WOW! Nobody realizes how important a "Vision" is more than those who have taken his course! As a student I found I had capacities I did not think I had!

By the way, I am also a professor at Summit. I have a deep appreciation for all the effort and work that it takes to get a degree! Oh, and did I mention that prior to becoming lead Pastor, I had been licensed as a minister since 1990? My market-place ministry was in the financial planning field. So, the moral of this story is: You really can teach an old dog, new tricks! Come join us, push through, and get that degree!

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START YOUR EDUCATION  
AND ANSWER THE CALL OF  
GOD ON YOUR LIFE! YOU  
CAN CALL OR GO ONLINE  
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PREPARE YOU FOR MINISTRY.  
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OR GO ONLINE, AT  
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Testimonies Continued...

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# Janie Talamantez

## Bachelor's in Theology and Master's in Theology with an emphasis in Christian Studies

*Janie's prayers were answered in regard to ministerial preparation when she heard about a local Bible College called Summit.*

Some years ago I was thinking to myself about how I wanted to know more about God's ways. I read my Bible but I wanted more. I desired to prepare my life more in God's Word to reach the lost around me. I needed to

study more from God's perspective on various subjects and how to better serve those who need help. During that time I was not familiar with any Christian college in this area. I was going to work and coming home to take care of my family.

One day my church announced that there was a Bible College nearby in Bakersfield. That was the first time I heard of Summit Bible College. I was really excited about that idea. That was my answered prayer! I quickly signed-up to start my classes. I felt like a sponge as I went through my curriculums.

Summit Bible College has been a big blessing for me. I have enjoyed my times studying to show myself approved before my Lord God. I will be using what I have learned to reach out better to help many that cross my life.

My prayer was answered with a college that values my Christian beliefs. Summit Bible College is a college with God's perspectives in their subjects. It is a college that prepares people to go help the lost.

# Daniel Frost

## Master's in Theology with an Emphasis in Christian Counseling

*Daniel's time at Summit prepared him to counsel others, due to the well-rounded curriculum!*

It was an amazing journey taking my classes at Summit Bible College to earn my Master's in Christian Counseling. The courses were well-rounded in all areas of counseling and have equipped me to counsel according to God's Word to restore and heal those that have faced adversities in their lives.

The staff at SBC were always very kind and helpful to guide me along the way. The instructors were very knowledgeable and wise and made learning interesting and fun. I learned so much from taking classes at SBC that I know I am now ready for God's calling on my life.

I just want to thank everyone at SBC for making my college experience a pleasurable one. I am so excited to be graduating at the end of this month and look forward to seeing where the Lord takes me. May God bless Summit Bible College in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Testimonies Continued...





# Barbara Dendy

## Bachelor's and Master's in Theology with an Emphasis in Christian Counseling

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*Barbara endured through great adversity to earn not one, but two degrees in Christian Counseling!*

A little bit about myself: I come from a family that has seen many trials and nothing in my family encouraged me to pursue further education. I am the first of my siblings to finish school and earn a college degree. Of course, I often felt overwhelmed and uncertain about my ability to finish, especially since I had so many difficult hurdles to deal with. Nevertheless, God explicitly says that "all things work together for the good of those who love Him," and God knows I love the Lord. I have had to come through many challenges during these last three years at Summit Bible College, by the grace of God.

I obtained a biblical diploma in 1999 at the prompting of the Holy Spirit and thought that I was finished. I had attempted to obtain a Psychology degree some years prior at Greenville Technical College but got frustrated with the process and quit. I

remember years ago, there were people who would seek me out because they needed someone to confide in, and they trusted me with their personal issues. I really thought it was strange that they came to me, and I felt that it was not just a natural ability but a spiritual enablement that allowed me to maintain their confidence.

Here we are almost 20 years later, and I thought I must be crazy to even consider going back to school. However, my goddaughter, Dr. Nicole Gordon, a former Summit Bible College graduate, was a constant source of love, encouragement, and support, who constantly told me I could do it, but I still had my reservations. I found myself calling Summit Bible College and spoke with Dr. Don Hedges with the intent to discuss the Christian counseling bachelor's course. He, however, suggested that I take the bachelor/master course. I must admit that I was not expecting or ever thought that I would even pursue a master's degree. Dr. Hedges has this soothing and anointed voice that encourages you to step beyond your own preconceived limitations, and he encouraged me to go higher. He said he would be watching my progress, and surely, he has.

Not too long ago my nephew was killed by gun violence, and if not for the things I have learned during the last three years, I don't know how I may have reacted. I reached out to Dr. Victor, telling him what had happened, and I tell you that I felt his spirit. This kind act meant so much to me during such a hard time in life. Thank you, Dr. V, for your loving compassion, empathy, and prayers for my family.

All the instructors were so engaging and knowledgeable of the subjects. I only wish I could have been in the classroom setting. I have indeed learned so much and found myself already applying what I've learned, impacting lives as I go. This Christian counseling course has not been all about me obtaining a degree, but it has brought healing and deliverance in my own life by forcing me to look within. I found myself revisiting areas of childhood pains that were buried deep within which I thought I had dealt with, only to find that God used this time to pour oil in those empty places. Now I can pour oil into others. I am excited about what God is birthing in my spirit as I move forward in establishing a grief and loss workshop for the community. I must add, it's also a blessing to graduate college and not have to spend years paying off educational debt.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the love and support of all the ones who rallied at different points to help me with all those papers and encouraged me that I could do it. Finally, I am grateful for the entire staff at Summit Bible College and I commend everyone for their labor of love, serving our Lord. Summit Bible College, I thank you for challenging me to become the best me I can be and equipping me for the work of the ministry. My prayer is that the vision for Summit Bible College continues to unfold and impact the Kingdom of God. I am proud to say that I am a 2019 Summit Bible College graduate. To God be all the glory.

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Testimonies Continued...

# Len Burdick

Master's in Theology with an emphasis in  
Worship and Prayer and Doctor of Divinity

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*Len found Summit's program to offer both excellence and flexibility for his busy schedule as a staff pastor in full-time ministry.*

Words cannot describe how happy and grateful I am that I discovered Summit Bible College! I was first informed about SBC through a good friend in ministry, Dave Feltman. I was so blessed to know that I could achieve upper level degrees at such an affordable cost, and yet put forth the kind of time and effort it takes to truly earn such honors. I am already an ordained minister working as a staff pastor for the last 25 years, but we had sensed the nudge to take our learning to the next level.

I am so thankful for the sensitivity and heart that the SBC leadership and staff have for those that are currently in full-time ministry and understand the commitment and time constraints that today's pastors face. I began back in 2011, and was able to slowly but surely labor away at a concurrent degree (Master's in Worship Studies, Doctorate in Pastoral Leadership) I could never have dreamed of attaining under any other circumstances.

Special thanks go to Dr. Don Hedges for his compassionate and gracious heart. Thank you, my friend, for the counsel, the phone conversations, and, most of all, the prayers you offered on my behalf. Great is your reward! Thank you, Dr. Jeff Victor, for your obedience to the vision God revealed to you, your encouragement, and for making advanced degrees available to us pastors on doable terms that flow with hectic schedules. God bless you!

I am 57 years old and feel like life has begun all over again! I have a spiritual and educational experience that no one can take away from me and look forward to considering doors of opportunity that couldn't have opened without enjoying such a rich and meaningful journey to them. I thank God for Summit Bible College, the staff, and all the wisdom I gleaned from the wonderful instructors. May He greatly bless your steps and bring you into higher heights and deeper levels of abundance for His name's sake!



# Suzanne Obloy

Master's and Doctorate in Theology with an emphasis in  
Christian Counseling

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*Suzanne's experience with Summit spans 15 years, from earning her associate's degree to now graduating with both a Master's and Doctoral degree!*

My experience and journey with Summit Bible College has been amazing! I have always enjoyed learning and studying and my passion for knowledge only became stronger when I became a Christ follower. After my first mission trip to South America in 2005 I knew I wanted to attend a Christian college and a sister in Christ recommended Summit Bible College. And the rest is history! I have now been a student of Summit for 15 years.

As a new bible student working on my Associates Degree, I found myself thriving and growing from what I was learning from the lectures, instructors and textbooks. I often discuss what I'd read or learned from the instructors in everyday conversation. The classes were not only feeding my intellectual side but feeding my spirit as well. They refresh me with





new ways of thinking about leadership, servant-hood, and discipleship. Over the years Summit Bible College has trained my mind for missions, worship, counseling, youth ministry, or general ministry. I believe it mimics the ministry of Jesus; it is designed to meet people where they are, then help develop the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed for success.

My heart is full of gratitude, love, and appreciation for the staff, administrators, instructors, and advisors at Summit Bible College who have walked alongside me from my Associate's Degree 15 years ago to the completion of my Doctorate of Theology in March — and I am graduating in a couple of weeks! My experience with Summit Bible College has not only been good for my education and ministry but has helped me to encounter God even more. Summit has provided me with a good foundation and prepared me for the opportunities God has for me out in the “real” world. The highest benefits of Summit Bible College are not limited to earning a degree (or several degrees!) but also in taking everything learned through these programs and putting it all into practice every moment of my life.

And thank you, Dr. Victor, for listening to God's voice and starting Summit Bible College. You have poured your heart and life into each and every one of us who have walked through Summit's doors. I am honored and privileged to have attended a college with such devoted and committed leaders. These have absolutely been the best days of my life, and I am very proud to say that I am a Summit Bible College Alumni.

## The Next Summit Bible College Quarter Begins Soon! Apply Today!



*Join the growing ranks of Summit Bible College graduates who are making a difference in their world!*

Get your degree in Christian Coaching, Counseling, Christian Studies, Leadership, and more!

*Degrees are available at the Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate levels, and you'll be learning from experienced professors who are experts in their fields!*

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# DEVOTIONAL

## MOMENT

*"Do not remember the former things,  
Nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I will do a new thing,  
Now it shall spring forth;  
Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

# AWAY IN THE WILDERNESS

by Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

In the passage above, God is offering the nation of Israel an opportunity to participate in the "new thing" He's going to be doing among them. However, with the invitation comes a question that is just as relevant to today's believer: "Shall you not know it?" In other words, before we participate in what God is doing, we have to recognize it. God warns them not to look to the past for a recognizable or familiar pattern to determine what He is about to do.

Too often when we use the word "new" we think of the latest in a series, like the new car that rolled out for 2019. However, in the scriptures, "new" often means something you've never seen before. Past is not necessarily prologue, and we have to be willing to step away from the familiar to embrace our new future. Too often God's people are unable to step away from what God *did* to embrace what God is *doing*.

It's fascinating to me that even during the active years of Jesus' ministry, there were still disciples of John the Baptist running around. Why? John himself had told the people that he was only sent to prepare the way for the

one who was to come. Still, we see disciples of John following a past move of God while the very thing He sought to reveal to the world was walking in their midst.

I would imagine some of them would have said, "Yes, but I'm comfortable with John! I like his style." Others might have said, "Yes, but I finally got a position on John's staff!" Others might have objected, "I've got a lot invested here! I can't just walk away from all I've worked for!" The disciples of Jesus did, however. The scripture says, "They immediately left their nets and followed Him" (Matthew 4:20). Anytime we choose to follow God's direction for our lives, it means leaving something else behind. The only question is, are we willing to forsake the familiar in favor of His future for our lives.

The Lord once spoke to me in regard to this. He said, "It's better to be a Private in what I'm *doing* than a General in what I *did*." God may be asking you to step out in unknown territory. That's ok. He can make a way in the wilderness and open a path where there hasn't been one before. Why would He ask you to do this? To bring rivers of water to those still in the desert.





# LAST WORD

## WORLD-CHANGERS WANTED

**While the challenges may be great, our God is greater,  
and we are called by Him to be difference makers!**

We've all seen the rise of a strident secularism in the west, and in America in particular, which has threatened to undermine the biblical foundations upon which our nation was built. We see the aggressiveness with which media pundits and politicians attack people of faith who stand for biblical principles in the public square. To be sure, the pressures we feel from the world are real, but not all the problems are external.

A recent study from Barna shows that a large group of American Christians are more *ready* than they are *willing* to share their faith. About three-quarters of the nation's Millennials say they feel equipped to share their faith, and yet an alarming number (47%) feel that it is in some measure *wrong* to "share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith."<sup>1</sup> This, no doubt, comes from the cultural move toward pluralism and political correctness but is an obviously erroneous perspective in the light of the Great Commission Christ gave the Church to make disciples of all nations.

Other problems abound, but the mistake is to focus on the negatives when in reality, the Church has always been a counter-cultural movement. Great challenges should simply signal to us that there are also great opportunities to be difference makers in our world. There are a number of things regarding the Church's work that have remained the same.

First of all, "the harvest is still great." Jesus told the disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). That is still true today. There is no shortage on the demand, only on the supply. There is "job security" for us all. There is room enough for laborers in every field of endeavor, regardless of one's ministry focus or occupation. In other words, we can all be *harvest reapers* regardless of how and where we serve the Lord. The fields are still "white unto harvest," and we are all missionaries in the particular world to which we've been called.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is still present to empower us for the work we are called to do. Gospel work is a joint venture between God and His people. We do not do this in our own strength. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8), and that He would empower them to reach the world. The same holds true for us today.

Lastly, regardless of how many empty wells men may visit to try to slake their thirst, only Christ has those living waters which satisfy the soul of man. It is this reality that should always embolden us to share our faith, even in the face of seemingly overwhelming opposition. After all, the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



# SPECIAL

## GRADUATION 2018 EDITION



# THE HEIGHTS

Graduation Edition • A Publication of the Summit Bible College Alumni Association • Equipping Christian Leaders to Help Those In Need

**We are here to serve you!**

**Contact us with any questions you may have in regard to the courses available for your continuing education at Summit Bible College.**

**Also, follow our newsletter and this magazine for any and all upcoming Alumni events.**

**We look forward to seeing you again soon!**

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