

GATE BREAKER NEWS

MT. 16:18 "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."



Gate Breaker Ministries

NEW THINGS

Welcome to Gate Breaker News! This news and newsletter is a *new thing*.

The Lord often does new things for His people, like making a way in the wilderness or rivers in the desert (Is. 43:19). This newsletter is a new way.

It is a new way of getting current events and information to people who are interested in Gate Breaker Ministries (GBM).

This began as an apologetics ministry in the late 1990's to train Christians to contend for the faith (Jude 4), but now it is expanding into other areas of teaching and ministry.

Four or more times a year this newsletter will bring

information about my current ministry activities, relevant articles, publications, and other things of importance.

I would like to thank all of you who pray for me and for those who through this ministry are blessed by the Lord.

For the past fifteen years I have been pastor at House of the Lord (HOTL) in Oldtown, Idaho. It has been through the faithful prayer and support of this congregation that GBM has been possible.

My friends at HOTL have seen the Lord open numerous doors of ministry opportunity for both myself and others, leading to ministry



That's me in the late 1970's pointing up to Jesus.

around the U. S. and to "the four corners of the world" as was prophesied over my life. Thus far, I have ministered in 20 nations. It is my hope that this newsletter will inform and inspire the Lord's people. Thank you and God bless!

Stan Fleming

A Very Religious World

Christians have a big job ahead in fulfilling the great commission of Jesus (Mt. 28:18-20).

It is a very religious world! There are approximately 6.5 billion people on the planet. Of that number, over 5.6

billion are involved in a religion of some type. There are 10,900 distinct organized religions.

Aberrant cults form from the major religions with differing and often bizarre teachings. Then there is the

occult. Whereas the word *cult* refers to a certain group of people, the word *occult* refers to a world view such as witchcraft, Satanism, New Age, physic channeling, etc.

The good news: 33% of the
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World Religion Sizes

- Christians - 2.15 billion
- Muslims - 1.33 b
- Hindus - 877 million
- Buddhists - 382 m
- Ethnic religionists - 257 m
- Atheists - 151 m
- New Religionists - 108 m
- Sikhs - 25.6 m
- Jews - 15.3 m

Statistics here and in the adjacent article are from David B. Barrett, World Evangelization Research Center, and Todd M. Johnson, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, <www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/globalchristianity/resources.php>

A Very Religious World (Continued)

world's population classify themselves as Christians. Of course, many are nominal. However, the great news is that the word of God is going forth and people are getting saved. Christianity today has almost 250 m Evangelicals, 700 m Great Commission Christians, and 600 m Pentecostals / Charismatics.

Christians who feel overwhelmed with the task of world evangelization, need to remember that God is in control. The Holy Spirit is ministering truth about Jesus in the form of dreams, visions, healings, etc. to people. Consider the country of Turkey; nearly one-third of Turkish converts came to Christ after He appeared to them in a dream or vision.¹ In Nepal, an American missionary estimates that 80 % of conversions among villagers are due to healings and miracles. Daniel Gahle, a former witch doc-

tor converted to Christianity near Kathmandu, tells of illiterate villagers receiving visions along remote trails and others who had dreams of Christ prior to conversion.²

The Lord is also spreading the gospel through inter-cultural exchange. In the fall of 2002, I taught on the subject of cults in Kyoto and Kure, Japan. The church in Kure was just a few years old but had already grown to over 100 people (large for Japan). A part of its attraction was the Charismatic praise incorporated from its Brazilian roots.

I was told that prior to WWI and WWII many Japanese moved to South America to avoid the wars. Now, some are returning, bringing a strong Christian message. It was inspiring to preach to a group whose ethnic mixture was Japanese and Brazilian; but they all spoke



October, 2002: Brazilian church in Kure, Japan

Portuguese, the main language of Brazil. South American churches are on the rise in Japan with outreach in mind.

Perhaps that is part of the reason that a 2001 Gallup Poll (recently released) found a stunning increase in Christianity among the population of Japan. Although polls can be a bit skewed, 12 % of the adults and 36% of the teens surveyed considered themselves Christians. Though many in this group still relate to Shinto, Japan's ethnic religion, prior to this they would have identified (Continued on last page)

PARENTS AS ROLE MODELS

The speed of life seems to excel exponentially as children grow from toddlers to adolescents to teens. In this hectic-paced, modern society, parents frantically rush from work to dinner to their children's sporting events, dramas, and other special moments. Active teens shuffle the wakeful minutes of their lives between school,

If the parents take things in stride, their children have a better chance of gaining perspective.

friends of both sexes, sports, study, sleepovers, college prep, youth group, and part-time work. What can parents do to bring a sense of balance and normalcy into the family? For one, parents

can model attitudes like patience, encouragement, humor, and devotion to Christ. Kids watch how their

parents act. If the parents are stressed, so are the kids. If the parents take things in stride, their children have a better chance of gaining perspective and not getting overly uptight about little things.

The dinner table can still be a place of communication and unwinding. Parents think teens don't want to talk, but sometimes it is the manner of questions.

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Results of *The DaVinci Code* fable

Last spring, I taught students at Ecola Bible School in Cannon Beach, OR about the errors of the *DaVinci Code*. I warned them that new or ungrounded Christians could fall prey to this modern-day myth.

The Apostle Paul warned us that in the last days people will be turned aside to fables (2nd Timothy 4:4). Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code* book (2003) and movie (2006) attack the truth about Jesus Christ and the history of the early Christian Church.

During break, another teacher came to me to confirm what I said; he had just witnessed a young convert being led astray after reading the novel that poses as fact.

In her clever review of The *Da Vinci Code* movie, Ann Hornaday said, "The most controversial thriller of the year turns out



At the Louvre Pyramid, April 2006

to be about as exciting as watching your parents play Sodoku."¹

Yet, the movie ranked 21st in the world and 56th in the U.S for all-time sales.² The book is the number one best selling fiction of all time. So let's be fair. There is huge impact! Consider (Continued on next page)

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SPECIAL MINISTRY EVENTS:

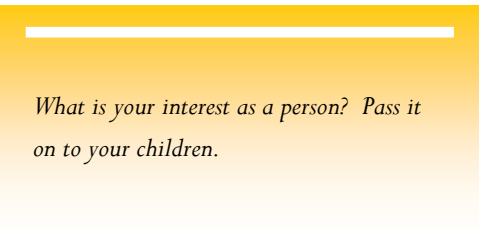
February—March, 2007

- 2/7-10: Arvada, CO—Teaching *A Study of Faiths and Religions*.
- 2/19-21: Pastor’s Prayer Summit.
- 2/23-24: Montgomery, AL—Easterling Correctional Facility: teaching *A Study of Faith and Religions*.
- 2/26-27: Lakeland, FL: 2007 Idea Exchange: Sharing on Islam.
- 3/11-13: Maple Valley, WA—Preaching, teaching *Historical Christianity and Other World Views*.
- 3/14: Standfield, WA—Radio / Television program, on cults and religions.
- 3/19-23: Canon Beach, OR, Ecola Bible School—teaching on cults.
- 3/24-25: Camas, WA: Preaching, teaching.

PARENTS AS ROLE MODELS (CONTINUED)

Instead of asking “how was school?” and hearing “okay”, try getting specific: “tell me two good things and two not-so-good-things about your day”.

Spending time together doesn’t have to be complicated. What is your interest as a person? Pass it on to your children. I like to read and learn.



Now I read with my two teenage daughters. We have read all kinds of books together: philosophy, classics, nature, etc. Right now we are on *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom.

Parents can model attitudes, conversation, concern, and activities. This will help produce balance in a teen’s hurried world.

Results of *The DaVinci Code* (Continued)

the results to some of the follow up surveys:

- 13 % of Americans and 17% of Canadians now believe that Jesus was married, had children, and faked his death.
- 1 in 5 British adults read the book; 2 out of 3 now believe Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had children.
- 17% of British readers now believe that the

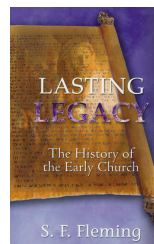
Catholic group Opus Dei is involved in murders.

- In France, those who read it are now 10% + more likely to believe that Jesus did not rise from the dead.³

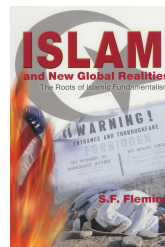
I was in France, Holland, and Belgium in April, 2006 refuting the *DaVinci Code* in various churches, and even one university setting for students and scholars.

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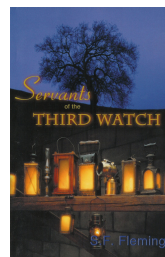
BOOKS FOR SALE



Lasting Legacy: Discover the roots of Christian faith, the facts, legends, people, movements, and miracles from Christ to the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD.



Islam and New Global Realities: Know the current issues, history and doctrines of Islam. Learn what the *Koran* says about Jesus and how it can be used to share the Good News with Muslims.

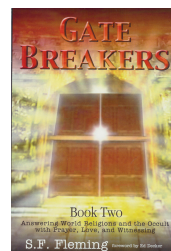


Servants of the Third Watch is based on a prophetic vision that the Lord gave me about the modern Church. What is the midnight hour of the Church? It may be closer than you think.



Gate Breakers is now in two volumes. Book One equips Christians regarding cults, and Book Two deals with world religions and the occult.

Book One is also available in Spanish.



These are great, easy-to-read resource books for individual or group studies. You don’t have to be an expert to teach from these. A perfect gift for pastors and students of Christianity.

BOOK ORDERING:

- **Books:** \$12.00 each. Specify request.
- **Shipping:** \$3.50 for one book. Add .50 cents for each additional book.
- **Discounts:** 10% on 5 or more. Contact GBM for discount on larger orders.
- **Payment:** Make checks payable to *Gate Breaker Ministries*. Send to: 754 Silver Birch Lane, Oldtown, Idaho 83822. (The new web site will have ordering on-line.)



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A Very Religious World (continued)

with Buddhism and Shinto.³

Though it is a very religious world, Christians have the right to be excited because the Lord *is* in control. He does unique, wonderful things among the nations. Yet, He invites - He challenges us - to be involved in the Great Commission of making disciples. He will use every prayer, every intercession, every word or action of salt and light, every dollar given, every moment of supernatural faith, every teaching, every act of Christian kindness, and all methods of discipleship to fulfill His purposes throughout the earth. The day will come when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10-11).

¹ "Call to Prayer" newsletter, Turkish World Outreach, December 2006 / January 2007.

² Grace Fox, "Miracles in the Hindu Kingdom," *Charisma Magazine* (January, 2003), 48, 52.

³ Michael Ireland, "Christianity on Upswing in Japan," *World Net Daily* (November, 6, 2006), WorldNetDaily.com

Results of *The Da Vinci Code* Fable (continued)

My daughter, Naphtali, accompanied me. We visited various settings for the book such as the Louvre Glass Pyramid where the book says the bones of Mary Magdalene now reside (We didn't see any. ☺) At a university meeting in Delft, Holland, I had an opportunity to debunk Dan Brown's fable. Among his many fabrications, he said that the early Church Fathers prior to 325 AD did not believe Jesus was God. That's not true. I simply quoted what the Fathers actually said, such as the following. Ignatius wrote to the Ephesians in 110 AD:

Both of Flesh and Spirit;
Both made and not made;
God existing in flesh;
True Life in Death;
Both of Mary and of God;
First possible and then impossible,
Even Jesus Christ our Lord.⁴

There are also numerous refutations to the myth that Jesus was married or had chil-

dren, but *The Da Vinci Code* fable did expose what modern western culture embraces. According to Tim Graham, MRC director of Media Analysis, "*The Da Vinci Code* received more of a publicity push from the networks than *The Passion of the Christ*."⁵ Money and interest drive what media covers and what entertainment is endorsed. Truth often takes 2nd place.

On a positive note, the modern fable did give Christians an opportunity to have a social dialogue about the truth of Christ. Dan Brown's sequel, *Angels and Demons*, is expected to be made into a movie and released in 2008. Here we go again—another opportunity to be a light in a dark world! None of this catches the Lord off guard. He is patient and wanting all to come to repentance (2nd Peter 3:9).

¹ Ann Horanady, "The Da Vinci Code," (May 19 2006) washingtonpost.com

² IMDb, <http://www.imdb.com/Top>

³ Quoting various statistics from research polls http://vivicat1.blogspot.com/2006_05_01_archive.html

⁴ Ignatius, Epistle to the Ephesians, 110 AD.

⁵ Tim Graham, "The Trashing of the Christ," (May 23, 2006) *The Media Research Center*, www.mediarsearch.org.

Why Gate Breakers?

The idea for the name of Gate Breaker Ministries comes from Matthew 16:18 in which Jesus said, "The gates of Hades shall not prevail" against the Church. Hades is a place of death. Indeed, this can be a literal place, but it can also be understood as a place of spiritual death and darkness. Yet, Jesus came to set the captives free!

Christians are called to be a light in a dark world. They are commissioned to bring the life of Christ to people bound in spiritual death. One of the devil's tricks is to confuse people with false religion, occult practices, and pseudo-Christian cults that pervert the truth about Jesus Christ and Scripture.

Prayer, love and witness should be the proactive approach of Christians toward people bound in chains of spiritual darkness. In a world of many problems, Christians should not just be defensive-minded; i.e., guarding the gates of Christianity, but we should also be those advancing the Kingdom of God in the earth.

John 3:16 tells us "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever* believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." GBM is about equipping Christians with knowledge and understanding so that they can reach out to those—*whoever*—caught up in cults, religious fables, and the occult with prayer, love, and witness. Please pray for someone today! If opportunity arises, show them love and witness about Christ.