

# APPENDIX



## GIVING THE DEVIL A HEAVEN OF A TIME

*Paradigm #4: We are called to take the kingdom of God where the kingdom of darkness is.*

A landing drill and an amphibious landing are similar except in one key point. The former happens in friendly territory and it does not impact the enemy's position. The latter takes the war to the enemy's territory and is designed to destroy his positions. In order to liberate our cities and nations, it is time that the Church replaces its Sunday parades with all-out thrusts against the kingdom of darkness's entrenchments in the marketplace.

As exciting as worship in the marketplace is, its impact is not designed to be merely inward. Rather, it is intended to have a powerful collateral effect on the devil and his wicked empire. The enemy still holds on to much of what our Lord purchased with His precious blood.

As I elaborated on earlier, human history began with Adam and Eve serving God in a perfect setting where the will of God was fully implemented. When sin entered, fellowship between God and His creatures was broken and the devil gained a free hand to completely defile life on Earth. Very quickly, jealousy caused the first murder, and from that moment on violence has wreaked havoc in what used to be a peaceful world.

However, God has never given up on restoration. In fact, right after the Fall He warned the devil that a rematch would take place and that Satan was going to be the loser—Satan would hit the deck with a bruised head! From that moment on, God is seen all through the Scriptures connecting with people and empowering them to first set, and then keep, a process in motion leading up to the moment when the world turns back to God.

With the stewardship over the earth that God entrusted in the beginning to Adam and Eve came very broad “powers of attorney”—that is, legal jurisdictions over the earth that were, in essence, surrendered to the devil through their sin. Consequently, it became necessary for God to devise a legally binding plan to recover the legal title, a plan that He carried out at Calvary.

## THE MATCH OF THE AGES

At first it looked more like a defeat, with Jesus hanging on a cross, naked, betrayed by one of His own disciples, abandoned by the others and temporarily forsaken by His Father, while the multitude cursed Him. It was a scene of absolute vulnerability for the Son of God, and the devil knew it. What he could not anticipate was that Jesus' moment of greatest weakness was in fact the moment of His swiftest blow, producing the knockout punch of all ages. Colossians 2:13-15 gives us a step-by-step report of what happened that fateful day. It says that the devil

taunted Jesus with what is described as the certificate of debt, a document containing the decrees that were contrary to us (see Col. 2:14). It amounted to a comprehensive list of iniquities committed by every human being, documenting their eternal alienation from God and, as a consequence, certifying the devil's legal title to them. Basically the devil was saying to Jesus, "I cannot have You because You are sinless, but according to the document I hold in my hands, everybody else, including Your mother, belongs to me because Your Father has stipulated that the soul that sins must surely die. And everybody but You has sinned. You are dying alone!"

In these few tremendously agonizing seconds of history, Jesus was bearing the weight of eternity to redeem man and recover what man had lost. If we were able to dissect and capture the fullness of what was taking place, this is what I believe we might see: Having been deserted by His closest allies, Jesus now also had to bear His Father's silence in the hour of greatest need for comfort and companionship. Every single day of His earthly life, Jesus had been able to see the Father and have perfect communion with Him, from His carpenter's shop to the temple and everywhere in between. But now, utterly alone, with the angry crowd hurling curses at Him, the devil was pompously flaunting at Him the files of what he considered to be a bullet-proof legal case.

Jesus then lifted up His eyes toward heaven, anxiously longing to see the face of the Father . . . *but saw nothing*. From the very bottom of the pit of despair He cried out, "*Father, Father!*" But no one answered. "*Why have You forsaken me?*" He painfully intoned. Jesus, who had never done anything

He did not see the Father do first, was now staring at a blank screen for the first time. The power was cut off and, as a result, Jesus became totally vulnerable. The devil knew it and he made his move, coming even closer, brandishing his weapon one more time, that certificate of debt, and spitefully shouting, "You are dying alone! Everybody belongs to me because according to the rules laid down by Your own Father, the soul that sins must surely die!"

Yet, at the precise moment when the devil felt so sure of victory, Colossians 2:14 tells us that Jesus seized the incriminating document and nailed it to the Cross, making it possible for His blood to boldly inscribe *CANCELLED!* across its face.

## **GOD'S HAIL MARY PLAY**

Please indulge me as I render some color commentary on the moment of the devil's demise: I imagine Satan, shocked by what had just taken place, sputtering and fuming, "You cannot do that! Every person on that list has sinned and is barred forever from God's presence and is condemned to spend eternity with me in hell, according to the rules established by Your own Father! You cannot break the rules!"

But then I hear God the Father thunder from heaven, "I have just changed the rules. There is a new rule now."

At which the devil, fully cognizant of God's moral immutability and full authority, spits with bitterness and utter confusion, "What new rule are you talking about?!" "It is called *GRACE*."

"Why have I never heard of it?" shrieks Satan furiously.

“Because it was hidden in My Son,” God thunders back, “waiting for you to hang Him on the cross so that when His holy blood was spilled it would be released to remit every human sin. He who had no sin just paid the debt for everyone who did; and as a result, everybody on that list has been forgiven. That is called *grace*.”

Then suddenly, before the devil can formulate a response, Jesus brings the match to a dramatic finale. Rallying whatever strength that still remains in His beaten body and crushed soul, He cries out in tumultuous victory, “*It . . . is . . . finished!*”

At that precise moment, everybody and everything that had been lost from the time of the Garden onward was redeemed, because Jesus’ life was given in ransom for everyone on that list. On that transaction rests the spiritual legitimacy for our mission of those redeemed by that blood (the Church) to repossess everything that Jesus paid for. And that is why we can say with full assurance that the Church has been sent to *reclaim* what Jesus has already *redeemed*.

He took care of the costly part. He paid the full price of redemption for the entire world. Cognizant of that, we must now reclaim it one *insti- tution* at a time. A student needs to know that Jesus died for his or her school. A businessperson should confidently claim his company for God. The same is true when it comes to government officials. The forces of evil love to hang on to government agencies because of the power resident in them, but they have no legal claim. They are spiritual squatters. The price has been paid in full and a new Deed of Trust has been issued certifying that it is God’s property. God knows it. The devil knows it. Now we need to know it *and act on it*.

It is of fundamental importance for us Christians to know that we are entitled to reclaim everything that was lost, and that God will back us up. Very much like a sheriff will enforce an eviction notice, so too will angels—God’s deputies—when we serve legally binding notices.

## **EL CERESO PRISON: THE DEVIL’S PRISON BECOMES GOD’S PLACE**

Poncho Murguía, a pastor in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, understood this and put it to good use to reclaim El Cereso, the most infamous prison in his state of Chihuahua. Ciudad Juárez, a city of one-and-a-half-million people just across the border from El Paso, Texas, is the gateway for the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA). Millions of dollars in goods pass daily through those gates to reach the heart of the USA. Corruption in Ciudad Juárez is not unknown. In fact, most people will say it’s rampant, especially when it comes to drugs.

For several years, Poncho was the pastor of a growing and successful congregation with a top-notch K-12 school, a college and a brand-new building. He was loved by the members and could have easily coasted to retirement. But God gave Poncho a passion for city transformation and he could no longer be content with simply growing a congregation to revel in the goodness of heaven while his city each day was moving closer to hell. God directed him to resign his position and then to do a 21-day public fast for righteousness to prevail in Ciudad Juárez. This was no short order, given the prevalent moral decay, but Poncho obeyed.<sup>1</sup>

He set up a tent in a large park at the entrance of the city and for three weeks cried

out to God in plain view of his fellow citizens. The media got wind of this and every day sent a journalist with the same question: “What is God saying to you about the city today?” Then the media published what Poncho reported that God had communicated. As the media made the city aware of this unusual prophetic act, and in conjunction with the increasing prayers of the saints on the heavenly places over the region, people began to show up at the site—a few to join Poncho in his spiritual quest, but many to receive prayer. Eventually, up to 4,000 people congregated around his tent. Poncho ministered to them and many were set free. He knew the gates of Hades were in evidence all over, but also that greater is He who was in him than the one wreaking havoc on Ciudad Juárez.

Proof that the balance of power in the heavenly regions had tilted in his favor came at the end of the fast when the newly elected mayor of Ciudad Juárez called on Poncho to request help with El Cereso, a prison housing over 3,000 inmates, 92 percent of whom were on drugs, and where over 80 percent of the security personnel was involved in the drug traffic. In fact, better and cheaper drugs could be bought at the prison than on the streets of Ciudad Juárez.



Many attempts had been made before to clean up El Cereso but they all had failed due to the systemic corruption. But the new mayor recognized Poncho’s spiritual authority and called on him to take charge. After securing adequate spiritual covering, Poncho and the mayor devised a plan to reclaim El Cereso. With no prior notice given to the prison staff, 700 troops were deployed to take over the prison, replace the corrupt officials and lock the place down. For the next 30 days nothing went in or came out as thousands of inmates went through drug withdrawal assisted by doctors, nurses and pastors who ministered to them. When the operation was over, El Cereso had been cleaned up and the drug cartel dismantled.

Basically the gates of Hades crumbled because God’s people took the kingdom of God to the city. As a result, transformation has begun to take place in businesses with entire corporations, schools, immigration centers and myriads of people coming into the kingdom of God! The mayor now has proof that the Church possesses the power and the authority to eradicate systemic evil and is calling on her to do the same in other areas of the city, with similar results.

## **PHILIPPINES BROTHEL BECOMES TRANSFORMATION CENTER**

King Flores is a Filipino Christian who, like Francis Oda in Hawaii, holds dual ministerial citizenship since he is both the CEO of an international financial-transfer service in Manila and a pulpit minister. When he was first exposed to *Prayer Evangelism* and *Anointed for Business*, he decided to implement the principles right away. At the time, he was working as a consultant to a person who owned eight businesses, one of which was a



motel chain consisting of eight buildings with 1,600 rooms and employing 2,000 workers. However, each room was used an average of five times a day by 3,000 prostitutes who, in cahoots with the management, “processed” around 15,000 “clients.”

King brought his boss to our seminar, where the boss realized that he was a minister, his employees were his disciples, his business was his ministry, and his clients were his congregation. He also embraced the truth that salvation could and should come to his corporation in the same manner that it came to him. Soon after the seminar, he walked into his boardroom and proclaimed, “The kingdom of God has come to my business and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Cognizant that his 2,000 employees were in dire need of shepherding, he hired 30 pastors and, under King Flores’s leadership, gave them a novel assignment: “I will pay you a salary for you not to preach.”

By this he meant that they were to practice *prayer evangelism*, which I describe in its most elementary form as “talking to God about the lost before we talk to the lost about God.”<sup>2</sup> Luke 10:2-9 records Jesus’ four-step implementation, which I teach in my book *Prayer Evangelism*. The methodology is taken from His instructions to 70 followers whom He had chosen for a special assignment: to *bless* the lost, *fellowship* with them, *minister* to them, and then (and only then) *proclaim* that the kingdom of God has come near them. Thus, what constitutes the four-part thrust is to (1) *bless*, (2) *fellowship*, (3) *minister* and (4) *preach*. Therefore, because preaching is listed at the very end of the sequence, King’s boss made the statement about paying the pastors not to preach—meaning that they needed to cover the other steps first.

How serious he was about this became evident when three of the pastors, unable to overcome their training, violated his directive and preached *prematurely*. They were summarily fired and replaced with others who were willing to adhere strictly to the job description. The 30 pastors connected with the 2,000 employees by becoming part of the many task forces that are necessary for the daily running of a motel chain. This placement allowed them to quietly speak peace over the lost. As doors opened up for fellowship, they struck up friendships. As those friendships deepened, employees began to share personal problems with the pastors, who immediately offered prayer. Very soon, answers to those prayers materialized, providing a convincing platform for the proclamation that the kingdom of God had come to the motel chain. So much so that after two years and three months, the majority of the 2,000 employees had received the Lord. In the intervening time, the owner invested new capital to upgrade the motels to executive status to make them less accessible to street prostitution. He also built prayer chapels in each motel and recruited intercessors to pray on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for everyone who had spent the night there or was scheduled to do so that day.

The improved spiritual climate was heightened as more and more employees came to the Lord and began to see themselves as ministers, turning their jobs into ministerial vehicles. Can you picture employees praying that the presence of God will greet the guests when they check in? If the new occupants happened to be an illegitimate couple, being greeted by the presence of God as they entered the room must have had a dampening effect on their lustful desires, to put it mildly!

However, the most striking feature was informing the guests that prayer was available upon request, and instructing them how to avail themselves of this unusual hotel service.

The spiritual game plan worked so well that after 18 months, more than ten thousand clients had received the Lord, not to mention many others who were impacted by miraculous answers to prayer. Similar to what took place at the bank in Elk River, once salvation came to the hotel chain, the motels began to do the work of the ministry as believers are expected and empowered to do. The key player here was the owner, someone without formal theological training and who was never ordained and who does not preach from a pulpit. However, when King Flores's boss realized that he was a minister and chose to exercise his pastoral calling in the

marketplace, what would have taken a traditional pastor two life-times or more and a fortune to accomplish happened naturally and speedily because somebody decided to give the devil a heaven of a time, 24/7, by taking the kingdom of God where evil used to rule unhindered. What was formerly a den of iniquity became a hallmark of God's glory. These stories and many more like them confirm that the sweeping verdict that was won that day has stood the test of time. Wherever Satan has taken over an institution, whether it be in an industry, a prison or a bank, God's children, deputized and armed with the legal jurisdiction that Jesus' death secured, must move forward to reclaim it, knowing that the devil has no choice but to leave. The kingdom of darkness *will flee!*

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