

Drawn From Every Land

10 Devotions from our 10 Language Ministries

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Introduction

I often marvel at the beauty and diversity of God's global church. In the work I do at ReFrame Ministries, I am blessed to serve alongside Christian leaders from around the world. It is my hope that this collection of devotions—written by Christian from ten different countries and contexts—will not only be a blessing to your spiritual growth, but also an invitation to learn more about and from the world-wide body of Christ.

For 85 years, ReFrame Ministries has used media to share God's gospel and strengthen the local church. Throughout our history, we have seen media technology evolve and expand from our early days in radio and print, to the rise of television, and into the age of the internet and mobile devices. Each technological advance has brought new opportunities to share God's Word, and today we are able to reach people across the globe.

We strive to produce gospel resources that speak to real issues people experience in their everyday lives—in the language they speak and where they live. We operate in ten of our world's major languages and to share the gospel most effectively, we partner with local Christian leaders and organizations in contexts where each of these languages are spoken.

As you read these devotions, you will get a small taste of each of the unique cultural contexts in which our partners serve. Each devotion is written by a ReFrame ministry leader or team member—past or present—working to effectively share the gospel in their context and language. My prayer is that these devotions will bless you in your faith journey, draw you closer to the Lord, and inform your prayers for people around the globe who are daily encountering the good news of Jesus through devotions—and other Christian media resources— like these.

Technology will continue to change, but our mission never will. Be encouraged by these devotions crafted to proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen God's church worldwide.

Dr. Kurt Selles
Director of ReFrame Ministries

P.S. At ReFrame, we believe that media technology is the most practical and cost-effective way for as many people around the world to access the Word of God as possible. If you agree, you can learn more about ways you can get involved at ReFrameMinistries.org/help.

Consider Jesus

Written by Rev. Bassam Madany

HEBREWS 3:1-6

Holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, consider Jesus... – Hebrews 3:1 (CSB)

Sooner or later many who convert to the Christian faith face strong opposition and temptation to go back to their former faith. Why should they suffer loneliness and persecution when they can return to the comfort and security of the old way?

The letter to the Hebrews was sent to a people who were being told that it was not worthwhile to suffer persecution when they could so easily go back to Judaism. After all, the old way of laws was God's original revelation with a rich heritage going all the way back to Moses.

How do Christians counteract temptations to fall away from the faith? The answer is this: consider Jesus. We do not become Christian by our own whim, but by the effectual grace of God. We "share in the heavenly calling." We must not become overanxious about the difficulties of the new life. We must consider Jesus. He is "our apostle and high priest," sent by God and designated to be the one through whom we have our salvation.

Reflect on this wonderful Savior. He is greater than Moses or any other prophet. He is the Son of God. Remember that you are never alone; you are a member of the household of God. You have brothers and sisters all over the world. God will never forsake you. Look to Jesus, and hold fast to your confidence in him. He gives victory.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep our eyes fixed on you. Help us to remember that you have come to save us and that no one can pluck us out of your hands. In your name. Amen.



Born in Syria, Basam Madany first moved to the United States to attend seminary. He later paved the way for ReFrame to branch out into non-English ministry, hosting Arabic broadcasts on the radio.

Longing for Home

Written by Rev. Jeshurun Lin

HEBREWS 11:13-16

They were longing for a better country— a heavenly one. — Hebrews 11:16

In Chinese culture, the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Spring Festival (also called Chinese New Year) are very similar: both holidays are celebrated by returning home and reuniting with family. But while the Spring Festival emphasizes going home, Mid-Autumn emphasizes reuniting with loved ones. The focus of the Spring Festival is the earthly home; the focus of the Mid-Autumn Festival is the heavenly home. The full, bright round moon represents the spirit of Mid-Autumn. It is heavenly, lofty, and pure. It symbolizes people's inner feelings toward their hometown—different from the world. The hometown is a special place for every wanderer far from home.

As Christians, we can uniquely understand the deep longing and peace that Chinese people feel on Mid-Autumn night, because we know clearly that this world is not our home. The Bible tells us to look forward to a better, heavenly home, where God is. The author of Hebrews emphasizes a relationship that extends beyond geographic, spatial, and external limits. In this relationship with God, everything else is an added bonus.

You've likely heard the phrase, "Love is all you need." In a much deeper sense, God is love, and if you have a relationship with God, that is all you need, and you are experiencing a foretaste of heaven. Today we only know God by faith, but one day we will see him face to face. And then we will be in true paradise, which is the believer's eternal heavenly home. What a day that will be!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that in Jesus Christ you are preparing for us a heavenly city for all eternity. We expect and await the joyful arrival of that day! In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



Rev. Jeshurun Lin (M.Div. and Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary) currently resides in China, where he is involved in our ministry and teaches theology.

Through Christ Alone

Written by Rev. Scott Hoezee

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13

**I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
— Philippians 4:13**

Christian contentment is something we all must learn. Paul had to learn it too. His life—like most people’s lives—had its share of ups and downs. He had times of plenty, dining on fine food and sleeping in a warm bed. And he had times of great want, going to sleep hungry and without having a bed at all or even a blanket to keep him warm and dry.

“This has been my school of contentment,” Paul said, in effect. One learns to be content in good times without forgetting that they are a gift from God, and one learns to be content in bad times without forgetting that the Lord is still with you.

But here’s the real secret: our strength is not our own. Paul said he could do all this through the one who strengthened him. Note that this means not only being content when times are tough, but also being grateful when times are good. Both require a kind of strength, and this comes from Christ alone. This is the message woven throughout this letter. For Paul, it was always Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Without Jesus, we are nothing. With Jesus, we can do all things.

That is, very simply, the good news, the gospel. Do you know this Jesus in whom we can do all things?

Prayer: Strengthen our inner being, O God, by the power of the Spirit of Christ living and working in us. And may we do all things to your glory! Amen.



Rev. Scott Hoezee is a cohost of *Groundwork*, ReFrame’s half-hour audio program available on radio, online, and through podcast. He serves at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Envious Anger

Written by Rev. Marc Nabie

GENESIS 4:1-9

“Why are you angry?”

Why is your face downcast?” – Genesis 4:6

To covet is to desire what belongs to others. Coveting is very common in Africa—but not only in Africa. At one time or another, most of us covet the material possessions of others, like their homes or cars or wallets. Or we covet the personal advantages of others, like their good health, their professional success, or family life.

Coveting makes us agitated and unhappy. We become resentful of those who seem more fortunate than we are. We experience hostile feelings against them. When this envious hostility grows, it can become aggressive and violent. The Bible tells many stories about how coveting and envy turned violent. In today’s verses, Cain became envious of Abel because God accepted Abel’s sacrifice over Cain’s. Cain became angry. But God asked him, “Why are you angry?”

God warned Cain that his envious anger was like a wild animal crouching at his door, getting ready to destroy him. God told Cain to control his hostility. But Cain’s heart was so full of anger that he killed Abel. However, God did not abandon Cain even after he murdered his brother. And neither does God abandon us to an unhappy life of coveting and hostile envy. Through our broadcast ministry, listeners throughout West Africa learn to recognize this destructive tendency to covet and envy. They learn to confess these sins to God. Then, with patience and love, God teaches them—and each of us—what Cain refused to learn: to do what is right and to live in peace and contentment.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive us when we become envious of others. Give us a heart at peace so we can do what is right and live in contentment every day. Amen.



Rev. Marc Nabie joined ReFrame’s French ministry team in 2015. He serves in Burkina Faso and produces programming that speaks specifically to needs in West Africa, including successful programming reaching young people.

The Labyrinth

Written by Rev. R. C. Yadav

JEREMIAH 50:1-7

“My people have been lost sheep. . . .”
— Jeremiah 50:6

In India, Lucknow’s Bara Imaambaada building is very unique. This building is called the Labyrinth. It has so many corridors and hallways that one can easily be confused and have difficulty finding their way out of the building. It is said that once a contingent of the British army went inside the building to discover the secret, but they got lost inside and never came out.

This world is also a kind of labyrinth, with many doors, corridors, lanes, and crossroads. A person born into this world roams around in this labyrinth. That’s why for such a situation God said, “My people have been lost sheep.”

One of this world’s labyrinths may be the obsession to accumulate more and more worldly goods. It’s easy to get lost in that kind of labyrinth. Another corridor in this labyrinth may be the intense desire to gain more knowledge. Others may want to gain physical strength. Or they may want to accumulate wealth, and in so doing conquer the world.

Once someone becomes entangled in these types of labyrinths, it can be difficult to find their way out. The writer of Ecclesiastes said that in order to make his life comfortable, he acquired much wealth and sought entertainment and knowledge. But still his life was empty, and he found no happiness or permanent peace and joy. He concluded with deep conviction that a person can acquire eternal joy only through a personal relationship with God, because God is the only guide who leads us out of the labyrinth of this world ([Ecclesiastes 2:24-26](#)).

Prayer: Lord, help me to avoid the allurements of this world, and to seek only you. Amen



Rev. R. C. Yadav is the senior pastor of a Methodist church in India that partners with ReFrame in supporting the Hindi ministry.

Forider

Written by the Indonesian Ministry Team

LUKE 3:1-6

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him ’”— Luke 3:4

Forider is an Indonesian word for “motorcade”—a procession of vehicles, usually accompanied by police to provide safety for the people in the vehicles. Motorcades for heads of state can consist of several vehicles with armored cars, police motorcycles, and cars at both the beginning and the end of the procession. In the Indonesian language, *forider* comes from the Dutch *voorrijder*, originally meaning “front rider” and also “horseman.” Having a motorcade or *forider* allows those who are traveling to arrive at their destination safely, because it unblocks traffic and clears the way for the procession to reach its final destination.

Like a *forider*, John the Baptist prepared the way by calling people to repent of their sins and to be ready for the coming Messiah. Quoting from Isaiah, John reminded the people to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. For us, this preparation requires that we clean up our act and clear the path so that the procession can move smoothly. The preparation is also important for salvation. By preparing the way, the coming of the Lord will happen more smoothly.

Today we wait for the Lord Jesus to return. As the Word of God has called out to us, we must prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. Our preparation means that we live a pure life, that we get rid of anything that would block the way in our lives. This means getting rid of things that would block our relationship with God and others.

Prayer: Lord, help us to prepare for your second coming, that we may be ready to welcome you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen



Radio, television, and online outreach effectively break the geographical barriers of Indonesia’s islands and mountains. Our Indonesian ministry team creates devotional guides to help facilitate conversation with Indonesia’s diverse audiences.

Love is a Heart of Caring

Written by Rev. Masao Yamashita

JOHN 13:1, 31-35

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. — 1 John 4:9

When the Christian faith came to Japan for the first time in the 16th century, one of the greatest challenges for the early missionaries was how to translate the word “love.” Back in that day, there was only one Japanese word for love—and that referred to the love expressed between men and women.

But we know that the biblical concept of love refers to much more than romantic love. It can also refer to family love, brotherly love, and, most importantly, God’s divine love. So the early Christian missionaries used the word for “caring” to more accurately describe Christian love. This was a much clearer translation, and it presented the idea that Christian love is a heart of caring.

God sent Jesus Christ to this earth because he cares so much for us. He wants our redemption so much he sacrificed the life of his one and only Son. That is the ultimate kind of sacrificial love shown by God to each one of us.

Do you think you are not worthy of God’s love? Be assured, God cares deeply for you. And because he cares for us, we are called to show that care and love to the people around us. Can you do that?

Prayer: God of love, help us to love as you have loved so that all may know we belong to you. In the precious name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.



Rev. Masao Yamashita became ReFrame’s Japanese ministry leader in 1998. Masao studied at Kobe Reformed Seminary and then graduated from Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Jesus, Our Burden-Bearer

Written by Rev. Hernandes Dias Lopes

MATTHEW 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” – Matthew 11:28

Life is not a summer camp but a battlefield full of struggles. In this long and hard journey, you may be distressed and tired. Maybe you are groaning under the weight of a virtual steamroller of anguish, and you just do not know what to do.

Jesus says, “Do not despair; come to me.” He is your refuge, and he invites you to a refreshing time of trust and fellowship. He can relieve you of that heavy burden, remove grief from your heart, and heal your wounds.

He invites you to share a personal experience: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Jesus’ command is for you: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.” To do this requires a commitment to submit and learn.

Jesus even repeats his promise to you: not only does he say, “I will give you rest,” but he also says, “You will find rest” for your soul. Do not walk hunched over under the weight of despair. Turn to Jesus, because he has the power to relieve you of your burdens and carry you in his omnipotent arms.

Always remember that the Son of God is our only true refuge.

Prayer: Lord God, I need spiritual healing. I admit that I have looked for other ways to satisfy my heart, but without success. Only you are the true refuge.

In your name, Amen.



Rev. Hernandes became ReFrame’s Portuguese ministry leader in 2010. He also serves as the director of Luz Para o Caminho (Light for the Way), an organization formed in partnership between ReFrame and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Walk the Talk!

Written by Rev. Sergei Sosedkin

1 JOHN 3:16-20

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. — 1 John 3:18

When our radio listeners contact us, they usually send a letter or an email. Nikolai, a farmer and hunter from Siberia, mailed to our Russian office a short note along with a bearskin! He wanted to support our ministry but didn't have cash. So he sent a skin he had recently hunted, and he asked us to sell his gift and use the proceeds to buy Bibles for the poor.

Soon we became the recipients of other gifts—such as dried fruits and honey—all from Nikolai. More recently, he has been sending us cash contributions, and with every gift he encloses a note of encouragement and some brotherly criticism of our radio messages. Actions speak louder than words. When Nikolai writes notes or sends gifts to us, we know he cares. That's what today's passage is about. According to John, talk is cheap if it is not followed by concrete actions.

When I was graduating from Bible college, our professor told us, "Congratulations. You have all learned how to speak as true Christians! Now the challenge is to always live out your beautiful words." That's a challenge for everyone who is on a journey of faith. Are we walking the talk? Our salvation in Jesus is a free gift. Now we are called to do good works out of our thankfulness for salvation, showing our genuine love for God and our neighbors.

Prayer: Lord, we praise you for your salvation in Christ! In him you have shown us what true love is. Teach us how to love not only with words but also with tangible actions. Amen.



Rev. Sergei Sosedkin became the Russian ministry leader for ReFrame Ministries in 2002. He and his team create programming to serve Russian speakers in Russia, Eastern Europe, and the United States.

What Is Life?

Written by Rev. Guillermo Serrano

JOHN 1:1-14

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. — John 1:4

How do you define life? Maybe you think it is a peaceful existence without major conflicts. That's really living! But life is more than that. I'm not talking about possessions, titles, or money. These may be a bonus, but they do not constitute what life truly is.

The gospel of John talks about a central figure, saying: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind." Those words are very puzzling, and we cannot ignore the element of mystery that hides in this verse. Thank God that the book of John does not leave us in the dark. On the contrary, it keeps telling us how this life has become visible; how it even became flesh and made itself known to us.

This is why it's important to realize that life is much more than simply the mundane events that happen each day. More than disappointments. More than a peaceful existence without problems. Each of us needs to understand what life really entails. Even more, we need some type of personal embrace of the message that includes many promises—among them, the most extraordinary of all: the promise of eternal life.

If you have not read the book of John, you are really missing something wonderful! Life is a gift. Are you enjoying it to the full?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for life. Help me learn not only how to live but also how to understand my purpose in life. Thank you for Jesus Christ, who brings meaning to my life. Amen.



From 1991-2020, Rev. Guillermo Serrano led our Spanish ministry into new media directions such as television, the internet, devotional apps, and leadership training.



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