

SHUTDOWN TO

SHUT UP, LOOK UP, AND LISTEN UP



Gaza

HOLINESS

VS

HAPPINESS

GOD'S ETERNAL PATH IN HEAVEN

MAN'S TEMPORARY FOCUS ON EARTH

Holiness has become an extremely unpopular word in America. We have swapped out holiness in search for happiness for our purpose on earth. Our sophisticated, wealthy, Artificial Intelligence, popularly driven society has surrendered a **"second class society"** called happiness not holiness. It has been a warfare for since the beginning swamped in our abundance of material possessions.

The book of Leviticus alone uses the word holiness 87 times, and 76 times in the New Testament. Reference to holiness in the whole Bible is around 600 to 900 times. *"Be you holy for I am holy says the Lord God."* *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is Full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3. Revelation 4:8

The Bible calls God "the Holy One" over 50 times, 150 times Spirit of God, and the "Holy Spirit" 90 times. This explains why the spiritual warfare seems to dominate in our own Washington Capitol. The undercurrent of jealousy revenge, and "NO ANSWERS" constantly shuts down to fight against Jesus, the author of Truth and holiness. Temporary happiness equals temporary possessions, and circumstances. Holiness equals peace, and pure heart.

As our Congress House continues their **shutdown**, God is calling all Congress to repent of their undercurrent pride, selfish motives, and greed. **When Congress prays together their eyes will open to God's bigger picture of eternal holiness.** They will see the walls of corruption will gradually crumble, humbled hearts mended, respect restored, honor to God acknowledged, arms of love open to their political enemies, fairness declared in the voting booths, unforgiving bitterness disappears, dominating control released, focus on the needs of others, and prayer as the first and last agenda in all regular congressional sessions. Only then will the pride of Woke, transgenderism, racism, fascism, atheism be no more.

Before our eyes the world has witnessed the devastating results of refusal to repentance in Gaza, Palestine, Nigeria, Iran, just to name a few. Deep inside their hearts is a desperate search for happiness, satisfaction, and purpose for living through **"control"** not for God's holiness.



However, since 2018 there as has been a massive revival to Christ in their homes in Iran who are "fed up" with their governmental dictatorship. God has massive plans for Iran to be a Christian nation.

God gave Gaza so many second chances yet ignored. Result a **nationwide financial, physical, and emotional shut down** as God's final strategy to look up and listen to God with open ears and hearts.

Gwinnett Co. in need of help!! After 22 years in the Gwinnett CO. prisons, courthouse, and extended stay motels I witnessed firsthand total **devastation emotionally, financially, and spiritually shutdowns into homeless families.** But in God's time frame countless families have turned to a long term search **for God's holiness not happiness.**

Their massive financial shut down in their adult life "with children" has opened their hearts to listen up to Almighty God preparing them "on earth" for eternity. **NO MORE POLICE CALLS!** **When management changed hands, the Spirit of God changed family hearts!**



SHUTDOWN LOOK UP, AND LISTEN UP



DRUG COURT GRADUATIONS

Under the direction of Chris Sconiers, Assistant Director Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, we witnessed their celebration of rehab for drug court. It just happened to be the very day and location for our weekly prayer for all our 45 judges, 5 commissioners, 5 school board members, and 17 mayors!! As a substitute habit for drugs, promoting a daily prayer life with a dosage of God's Word is the **best drugs remedy!**

GWINNETT CO.
28 LIQUOR STORES
11 NIGHT CLUBS
15 MOSQUES
10 HINDU TEMPLES
15 BUDDHIST TEMPLES



In the midst of so many diversity of religions and the flow of alcohol in Gwinnett Co. there is a common denominator that is the number one undeniable attraction to them all – **LOVE**. To personally know the engineer and CEO of LOVE, Jesus, give us complete access HIS LOVE. ***“God so LOVED THE WORLD that He gave his only begotten Son (JESUS) that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”*** This was the message mailed out to every liquor store, night club, mosques, Hindu Temples, and Buddhist Temple. **The seed has been planted.** God alone will bring this priceless gift of His saving grace to the surface in His timing. **Pray now it will take root in each heart.**



DRUG BUST

I personally witnessed this “one car” drug bust this week. It was an unexpected confirmation to me to the safety and morality in Gwinnett Co. with a fast growing population of 1,003,869. We are guarded by approximately 931 police officers, 13 civilian E-911 Communications Officers, and 190 civilian employees.

Only one car with drugs, but 6 police cars showed up! **Amazing the rate of crime is almost nonexistent even with such a high population growth.** Fulton, Dekalb and Clayton Co. is the exact opposite of Gwinnett Co. Why?? The greater the shield of prayer for our leadership the greater our protection at a moments notice. The list of leadership on our newsletter is where are prayers go to for intercession every weekly. **If you live in Gwinnett Co. you are welcome to join us in prayer any week for our leadership to keep the crime rating so low.**

SHUTDOWN FOR A BIGGER ASSIGNMENT



Many of you may already know that Oscar Lopez as our coworker faithfully served Bridge The Gap Ministries both in the Gwinnett County Courthouse and as a trusted ambassador to the Spanish-speaking community.

Oscar, through unsettled circumstances and communications, was detained by ICE in May earlier this month. Brendan Spaar and I visited Oscar at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA. in fellowship and prayer. When we arrived, the officer at the front desk shared that out of the 1,500 detainees, she personally knew Oscar and described him as very kind—a powerful reflection of the light of Christ that shines through him.

Oscar was in good spirits as we visited about an hour. He shared that in his dorm of 100 men, many are released quickly on bond. While they are there, Oscar takes every opportunity to minister to them, and share the Gospel. He noted that many of these men had been working long hours before their detention, and never had time to pray or attend church. **Sounds very familiar in America!**

Now, in this unexpected season in their lives, God is using Oscar to reveal Himself to them. He spends much of his time translating documents for fellow detainees and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. The facility holds daily church services, and a pastor as far as Norcross (3 hours) comes to worship with, and preach to the men.

Only God knows the full reason behind Oscar's detention. But with encouragement from his own pastor, Oscar has expressed his calling to become a "pastor" in his deportation to Guatemala his country. Men in the Detention Center facility have already begun calling him "Pastor."

We prayed with Oscar that His family will accept this decision and that God's will be done. Please pray for Oscar that he remains focused, encouraged, and faithful in his mission to reach lost souls with the message of Jesus inside the detention center.

Oscar will be joining Bridge The Gap ministry team at the courthouse by video on **Friday at 12 Noon**. If you would like to pray with us and Oscar you can join us Fridays on **zoom app or phone** at **bridgethegapministries.org/pray/**

Please consider donating to Bridge The Gap Ministries—either online or by mailing a check—so we can continue supporting Oscar and others behind bars through this vital outreach.

It would be a great surprise to Oscar to hear from you by letters of encouragement. Inmate letters are like a goldmine knowing that he is not forgotten with **"out of sight, out of mind"**. Send to:

Oscar F. Lopez Carillo - A070773902
Stewart Detention Center P.O. Box 227042
Lumpkin, GA 31815

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Of the night and the weight of what I've just done. I closed my laptop 10 minutes ago and with it I closed a chapter of my life that most people would never dare walk away from. A life of control. A life of applause. A life of power. And yet tonight, I chose something that doesn't fit into the headlines. Something no press conference could explain. Something eternal. For years I've stood in boardrooms and arenas and the Oval Office. To see the world knows me as a builder. But what I realized tonight is that I've been building on the wrong foundation and the weight of that truth. It doesn't feel like loss. It feels like freedom. This isn't a speech, it's not a performance. It's just the rawest moment of my life. And I want to take you back to where it began because three nights ago something happened and I haven't been the same since. For most of my life I was chasing something. Sometimes I called it greatness, sometimes success, sometimes destiny. But no matter how I labeled it, it always looked like more. More buildings, more votes, more headlines, more legacy. And the truth is, I got it. All of it. My name lit up skylines. People wore hats with my slogan. Entire nations waited for what I would say next. I had power most people only read about in history books. But power doesn't follow you home. It doesn't stick with you at night. It doesn't know who you are when the cameras are off. There were nights in the White House, surrounded by marble, security and silence. And yet I felt alone. Utterly alone. I had the world's attention. But I didn't have peace. I had control over empires, but none over my own soul. And I kept wondering why. Why does a man who's won so much feel like he's lost something he can't name? And it took me decades to realize you can conquer the world and still be a stranger to yourself. It happened three nights ago. I was alone again. No stage, no press, no advisors. Just me and a dim light in my study. I had been reviewing documents. Nothing unusual. But I couldn't focus. My mind kept drifting. Something felt off, like I was missing a meeting I didn't know I had. And then out of nowhere, a question entered my mind so loud it silenced everything else. What have you've built? Everything except what matters most. I froze. It wasn't just a thought, it was a confrontation. I faced world leaders I've stood in debates that millions watched, but nothing felt as direct, as personal as this. I tried to shake it off, turn on the TV scrolled my phone, but nothing could distract me because deep down I knew this wasn't political, this wasn't philosophical, this was spiritual. And that's when I felt it. Not fear, not shame, but presence. It wasn't visible, but it was real. More real than anything I'd ever experienced. And in that moment, I heard it.

Not with my ears, but with my soul. Donald let go. I sat there in silence, hands still, heart racing. Let go. Let go of what? My empire. My legacy, my pride, everything in me wanted to resist. I've always been the one in control. I've built towers from nothing. I won battles people said were unwinnable. I shaped the narrative, mine and everyone else's. But in that moment, I realized something terrifying. The throne I thought I sat on wasn't really mine. It never was. All these years I thought I was the architect, the strategist, the king, but there was a deeper truth I had ignored, I had buried beneath years of ambition. God was never asking me to be great. He was asking me to be his. I had mistaken applause for approval, fame for fulfillment, control for purpose. And now the God of the universe was asking me to surrender, not to lose, but to finally win. Not in the eyes of the world. But in the eyes of the one who actually matters, that's when I broke. Not publicly, not with cameras, but privately, completely. For the first time in my life, I took off the crown and gave it back to the rightful king. People talk about peace like it's a soft thing. I wasn't trying to prove I was still. And in that stillness, I met someone I thought I knew. Jesus. Not the figure I heard about in church as a kid, not the name or a bumper sticker, but the living, breathing son of God. He wasn't a concept anymore. He was real, and he wasn't there to condemn me. He wasn't angry. He wasn't impressed either. He just looked at me with a kind of love I had never seen before. The kind of love that doesn't need anything from you. The kind of love that is a simple island. And that broke me even more. Because I realized. All these years I was trying to earn what He was giving for free. That night I made a decision. Not a political one, not a strategic soul level decision. I said yes. Yes to surrender, yes to a new kind of leadership. Yes to Jesus, and since then everything's changed. Not because I've become perfect, not because I stopped being who I am, but because now I know whose I am. I still speak boldly, I still have opinions, but now I speak from a place of peace, not pride. I still lead, but now I lead from a place of purpose, not pressure. I've learned that true power doesn't come from the position you hold, it comes from the God you serve. And if He could reach me, someone the world sees as too stubborn, too proud, too far gone, then He can reach anyone. I spent most of my life building things: buildings, businesses, battles, legacies. And for a while it worked. I had more than most could dream of: power, influence, history, making moments yet God in Christ is King. Donald J. Trump