Monday
Wise Men Still Seek Him

'...Wise men...came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?..."'
Matthew 2:1-2

Let us start by asking a question. Why would someone leave the comfort of their home, travel two thousand miles by camel, brave blistering deserts fraught with highwaymen and hazards, and follow a star to an unfamiliar destination? There is only one answer: wise men and women have always hungered for God. It is said that the three most sought-out words on the Internet today are work, sex and God. Work addresses our need for security; sex addresses our need for companionship and intimacy; God addresses our need to be forgiven, to experience peace and joy, and understand the purpose of our lives on earth. It is the reason why primitive tribes who did not know God made gods out of mountains, animals, trees, and rocks.

Deep down we all have a need to experience something bigger than ourselves; someone capable of loving us, protecting and directing us. When his life fell apart Job cried, 'Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat!' (Job 23:3 NKJV). The ancient Greeks had an altar on Mars Hill with the inscription, 'To the unknown God'. Then Paul told them, '...What you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you' (Acts 17:23 NIV). The good news of Christmas is, you can seek God and find Him, by coming to know Jesus as your own personal Savior. Hosea called Israel back to God with these words: 'Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know Him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn...' (Hosea 6:3 NLT).

Tuesday
Get to Know Your Creator

"The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way.... Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!" (2 Corinthians 6:12-13 MSG)

At the end of the year, we all have many important tasks to get done. We have got year-end reports to write. We have holiday or festive season meals to plan; and, of course, we have gifts to buy. But you have something much more important to focus on at Christmas: developing a personal and growing your relationship with Jesus. That is what a transformed life is all about.

Why should you get to know Jesus better? There are at least two very important reasons. First, Jesus made you. The Bible says, "Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has
always been alive and is Himself God. He created everything there is — nothing exists that he did not make. Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind” (John 1:1-4 LB). Secondly, Jesus opens up your heart to enjoy a life of purpose, peace, and power. A relationship with Jesus secures your place in Heaven, but it does more than that. God promises a life of purpose, peace, and power to all who know him. Knowing Jesus in a personal way changes everything about how you live. Purpose, power, and peace are just the beginning of what God wants to give you in this life. Is your life being transformed?

Wednesday
The Gospel of the Kingdom

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-10

Why would Jesus pray that things in earth would be like they are in Heaven if it were not possible? When Jesus came to earth, He came in order to penetrate the very kingdom of darkness with light. He came to bring healing to sickness, replace sadness with joy, and fill meaninglessness with purpose. He came to change things for the better for a world that had no hope outside of God. Using the illustration above, Jesus did not come to merely give us a ticket to Heaven. He came to bring us much more—the Kingdom of God on earth. Nowhere in the Bible will you find the term, gospel of salvation. The Church does not exist for Heaven, but for earth. If it existed only for Heaven, then each of us would immediately be taken to Heaven. There would be no reason for us to remain on earth.

So why has God allowed us to receive this new birth and remain on earth? It is so that we might bring the Kingdom of God into our world—our families, our workplace, and our communities. God wants you to bring the Kingdom of God into the territory He has given you so that His will can be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Your domain is your workplace, family, and community, etc. Ask God to show you how He wants to penetrate the darkness of your domain with His light. Then you will see and experience all the features of this gift that has been given to you. This is a way to transform your territory.

Thursday
Division of Labour

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." Exodus 18:17-18

There comes a time when every great leader may need to be confronted about a blind spot in their leadership style. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit him in the desert. He watched his
son-in-law in action and noticed a major flaw in his management style. Moses was spending his time from morning until night judging disputes among the people. Jethro could see this was going to burn out Moses if he continued.

"The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.........the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him....... But select capable men from all the people -- men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain -- and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve ......That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands......... and all these people will go home satisfied." (Ex 18:18-23)

This was wisdom from a wise sage. And because the advice came from someone older and someone Moses respected, he heeded the advice. This is a key principle when a leader needs to be confronted. The correction must also be done in a spirit that is designed to help the leader be better, rather than shaming the leader for poor performance.

Friday
Always Do What Is Right

'...Hold fast what is good.' 1 Thessalonians 5:21

There is individual born of a woman that does not know at a very lower level, what is good from what is bad. There is also no culture in any part of the world that, does not know what is good from what is bad. Taking things belonging to others is stealing and this is frown at by all and sundry. We have become so permissive world over that, in today’s world, we see men proclaiming love and proposing to marry men like themselves. The same goes for the women too. Everything seems to be upside down. It has become so unbelievable that even governments give not just tacit but outright approval to such wayward living.

The Scripture is so clear about the need to hold fast to what is good. It should not matter what every other person are saying or doing. A transformed life will keep holding to that which is good. Every time you honour God, God honours you in return. It is not possible to identify with God in a permissive world, that, God Himself will not stand up for you. Do it for God and He will do it for you also. He will not fail you. Remember the three Hebrew children in the book of Daniel. They held on to what was good and God did not abandon them, so He will not abandon you too.
Saturday
Living for a Cause For Christ

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done." - Proverbs 19:17

Let us consider an incredible story in the case of Brigid, a woman born in the 400s Ireland. Brigid was born from a sexual encounter between an Irish king and one of his slaves. She was raised as a slave girl within the king’s household and was required to perform hard work on the king’s farm. From the beginning, Brigid took notice of the plight of the less fortunate. She would give the butter from the king’s kitchen to working boys. She once gave the king’s sword to a passing leper—an act about which the king was enraged. The king tried to marry her off, but to no avail. One day, Brigid fled the king’s house and committed herself to belonging only to Christ.

Brigid sought other women who also wanted to belong only to Christ. Seven of them organized a community of nuns that became known as the settlement of Kildare, a place where many thatch-roofed dwellings were built, and where artist studios, workshops, guest chambers, a library, and a church evolved. These and other settlements became little industries all to themselves, producing some of the greatest craftsmanship in all of Europe. Many of the poor had their lives bettered because of Brigid’s ministry to them.

Brigid became a traveling evangelist, helping the poor and preaching the gospel. When she died in 453, it is estimated 13,000 people had escaped from slavery and poverty to Christian service and industry. Her name became synonymous with the plight of the poor.

Sunday
God Gives Us a Desire for Our Work

“You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands” (Job 14:15 NKJV).

Did you know that God has already pre-wired you for the work He created you to do? We all have things inside of us that excite us when we think about it. God is the source of this passion. However, our career path may require many stepping stones before we reach the work that we were ultimately created for.

When the ark of the covenant was to be designed to contain the sacred ten commandments, God prepared a man to perform the important work. When your work is empowered by the Spirit of God you will be hand-picked for some of the most important assignments. He says the skilled worker will even serve before kings (Prov. 22:9).
"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts -- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship'" (Ex 31:1-6). We do not know much about Bezalel, but you can be sure he had many jobs leading up to this most important assignment. He was also the first man mentioned in all of scripture to be "filled with the spirit of God."