



2019 CATALOG

THE GLOBALDESTINY IMPRINT

Now that we have released our TWENTIETH BOOK, we felt it would be a good time to put all of them in one place, again. Of course, we have two blog pages, and the GlobalDestiny website, and we post on Facebook, at least once a month; but we wanted to have something else – something that people can hold in their hands. The answer we came up with is the 2019 Catalog. Let us know what you think!



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THE SONG PROJECT

**THE
GLOBALDESTINY
IMPRINT**

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<https://tinyurl.com/The-GDI>

GREETINGS FROM THE BISHOP



Apostolic Greetings, in the Name of our Christ!

I am honored to welcome you to the premiere issue of The GlobalDestiny Imprint Catalog of books and publications written by myself, Bishop Raymond Allan Johnson.

I have a lot to say ...

It's not my fault. God has gifted me to write. Furthermore, over the course of more than four decades in ministry, He has deposited so much into my spirit until I am like a full bucket, running over. Just over a quarter of a century ago, 1990, in fact, I started writing a book called *From Kingdom all to Kingdom Call*. Taking a cue from the movie *Misery*, I loaded up my car with my books, notes, and typewriter, and drove up for a week, to a cabin the Georgian Bay in southern Ontario, Canada; and started writing. I got a great start, but in time what was intended to be one concise book evolved into four different books.

Things happened, along the way, that took attention away from what I'd started in Canada. I continued to write, but got no closer to publishing what I'd written. In an era before the internet came into existence, I read thousands of books and articles, and spent countless hours in the library. And the books grew, until they took on form.

In 1995 I was chosen to the faculty of the first School of Ministry for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship Conference, in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was assigned to teach a class for elders, called "Second Best". Several of my colleagues read the courseware and begged me to publish it, even though the courseware consisted of only twenty-two pages. Nothing came of their request, for almost twenty years.

A third development happened, that influenced my writing. In 2005, I accepted an overseas assignment, working for a Ford Motor company joint venture, in the Peoples Republic of China. Everything I *thought* I knew about China was colored by the Kung Fu movies I had seen, over the years; and a single scene from the movie, "The Red Violin", depicting events from the Cultural Revolution. A side note, here: even the movies based in China that we did see, in the U.S., were actually filmed in Hong Kong, and the spoken Chinese was a dialect of Cantonese, spoken in Hong Kong; and not the Mandarin dialect, spoken in most of the Mainland. I was totally intrigued by what I saw, as I travelled around China, in my first year there. In February 2007 I created the "All Around China" blog (<http://aroundchina2007.blogspot.com/>), to document my travels.

My camera was extremely busy, during the seven years I lived in China. In all, I took more than 7,000 pictures, over the years. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The truth is, picture books are expensive. Nevertheless, I loved the land so much that I felt it was crucial to tell the story; and even to share some of the pictures I took, during my stay in China. In the meantime, I also started teaching Oral Communication, in a university in the city where I lived. Some of the thousands of pictures I took, of course, were pictures of my students. Many of the lessons I taught in the university gave me a chance to give my students an insight into what life is like, here in America. I also had younger students, who I tutored in my home. Many of these students dreamed of studying in an American college, after they graduated from high school – and, by the way, some of my university students had plans to attend a graduate school in the United States, after graduation from college.

I started collecting information for two complementary books: one to tell my students in china about life in America; the other to tell people in America about my experiences in China. I envisioned a third book about Chinese food, to describe what my culinary experiences, travelling around China. Finally, I wrote a book that built upon what

I learned about religion in China. These four books comprise “The Song Project”, which I will talk about later, in this newsletter.

In 2015 we completed *The Sojourners’ Story*, and *The Apple doesn’t Fall Far from the Tree* (which was the first finished book to emerge from “*From Kingdom Hall to Kingdom Call*”); and started the final stages of editing *Jehovah’s witnesses versus the Biblical Jesus. Keeping the Faith* was totally conceived and written, in 2016. The year is young. We believe that there are four books for us to finish, before the end of the year. Out of the four books we have in mind, *Mr. Song’s Dinner Table* was started in 2013; and *Mr. Song’s Bicycle* was started while I was still living in China; so we don’t know, yet, if 2016 will be the year that they are published. We also don’t know if God will put some other ideas in our spirit, that will totally change the trajectory of what we have planned, for 2016; so starting a catalog, like this one, will allow us to keep you up to date.

I pray that the publications of the GlobalDestiny Imprint will be a blessing to you. God enables me to start the Imprint with messages meant for the men and women who have been Called to the ministry of the Gospel. Some of what I have written grew out of the necessity of making class materials conveniently available. In addition to *Second Best*, that included the books in the **Episcopal Preparation Series**. I also realized that it was time to finally release what I had written, almost a quarter of a century ago, about my experiences growing up as a Jehovah’s witness, and finally leaving that religion and coming to Christ. The books in the **“Leaving the Watchtower Series”** were originally intended for people struggling with a decision about leaving the Jehovah’s witness religion; for people deciding whether to accept an invitation to study with them; and for people who were curious about the Watchtower religion. I certainly hope that they will be a blessing, beyond just that narrow crowd.

“The Song Project” started one morning, on a busy downtown street in the city of Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, in the Peoples Republic of China. It is really the diary of a man who found himself waking up in this unlikely place. The truth is, I was just like so many others who bought into every stereotype about China and its people; and had to share the reality check that I experienced in actually meeting and interacting with the people of that country.

In 2015 I came to the realization that most of what I had written, thus far, was intended for a pretty narrow audience. Not only that, but there was actually very little overlap, between the people who might read a title from, say, the “Episcopal Preparation Series”, and the “Leaving the Watchtower Series” – or The Song Project. Furthermore, I realized that I do have yet another message, a message of encouragement that is relevant to everyone. I asked God to help me write a book that would minister to people, regardless to their position in the church; or their religious past; or even their interest in a and that they might or might not ever travel to. God pointed me toward my sermons – especially the ones that I had most enjoyed preaching, over my forty-plus years in ministry.

Two particular themes stood out. The first was how God dealt with His people, in bringing them through the trials of the Wilderness, and into the place that He has promised to them, through their ancestor Abraham, over four-hundred years, before. The second scenario was a series of messages that I preached at Nanchang Destiny, while I was still living in the P.R.C. the series was called “Jesus sandwich”, and taken from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. The message that God deposited in my spirit is contained in two books, *The Sojourners’ Story*, published in 2015; and *Broken to Bread*, which I hope to finish, this year. They will be the foundation of “The Encouragement Series”. I am believing that there will be other books in this series, as the years go by.

I love to write. Writing is my passion. That is why I created this catalog, even though it is not totally necessary. We have a web page, at <http://global-destiny.org/bishop/TheImprint/index.html>; as well as The GlobalDestiny Imprint blog, at <http://globaldestinyimprint.blogspot.com/>. I suppose one reason for creating this catalog is because it will be easy to update; but I cannot dismiss the reality is that I created it just because I love to write. The truth is, I also write, because I want to get your attention; and – in the process – motivate you to read my books; and creating this catalog allows me to talk about each book, and the overall **Imprint**, in greater detail than what is sometimes possible on a web page or blog.

In the end, everything I write to promote the GlobalDestiny Imprint is written with the hope that it will open up a dialogue with you. If you are reading this, you probably already know how to reach out to me, on Facebook. I

encourage you to join the conversation, there; but also, feel free to reach out to me by email (bishoprajohnson@live.com). I would love to hear from you.

In His matchless Name

Keep the Faith
+JOHNSON

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE 2016

We have continued to publish, since we last updated this page, in 2016. In fact, our library has doubled in size, since then. This page provides the links that will carry you to the pages for the new titles in the GlobalDestiny Library.

2017 – 2018

First of all, we are beyond grateful to God, for allowing us to achieve our objective for 2016, for it to be another "Year of Impartation;" and for giving us a chance to give back for all that God has deposited in our spirit, throughout now 44 years of ministry. It is still, truly, an exciting time — no, an AMAZING time to be alive; and I am beyond words to describe how excited I am to have had you along for the journey! </p>

We are grateful to God to have reached the milestone of nearly a MILLION (840,000) words in print, by the end of 2018. While, of course, the emphasis of the Imprint continues to be spiritual, we have tried to write for a larger Christian audience. </p>

The Guide for Giant Slayers, for example, is the third of four books in The Encouragement Series. The fourth will, hopefully, be finished and published, later this year.

The two books in the Structure, Protocol, and Events Planning Series were written to help presiding bishops, overseers, and pastors in new fellowships and reformations with challenges related to structure, and to protocol.

The entire Song Project was released in 2018, as well. These are our only titles that don't touch on a spiritual theme. The three books in this series recollect experiences and observations from my seven years, living in the Peoples Republic of China. In 2016, we were anticipating releasing "*Mr. Song's Dinner Table: Or What You Don't Know About Chinese Food*," but we didn't actually get it out until Christmas 2018, at the same time as we released the other two "Mr. Song's Bicycle" titles

For those who don't know, I was raised a Jehovah's witness. I left that religion when I was twenty-three years old, and became a Christian, later that year. About twenty years ago I became part of the "XJW Movement;" an online network of former Jehovah's witnesses. I have been an active part of that movement, since then; but in 2011 I decided that it was time to change my involvement, from a a group moderator to just a participant. I wrote a letter to an online XJW group I ran, called "Confessions of an Ex-XJW." In 2018, I published a book, with the same title.

I wrote, *537: Jewish Structures and Institutions from the Exile to the Time of Christ*, to talk about something that troubled me, from my early years in ministry. When the New Testament blinks awake, we find Jesus constantly dealing with a group of Jewish religious leaders – Herods, Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and others, whom the Old Testament makes no reference.

Who were these people? Where did they come from? Where did their authority come from? How were they different from each other? How were they the same? "537" goes back over five centuries, to tell the story that strives to answer these questions.

And then, in 2017, I was invited to teach and preach at a conference of bishops and apostles, in Georgia. The host asked me to come back in 2018, to teach, that talked about Black Church History. this group again. When I asked him what he wanted me to focus on, he referred back to a section of my book, *A Compendium of the Episcopacy*. that dealt with Black church history, and asked me to teach on that. I wrote *We Hung Our Harps: The Church and the Negro*, to use, for that assignment.

Lastly, I found myself reminiscing, a few months ago, about the early days after leaving the Watchtower and coming to the church. I believe it was probably while I was working on Confessions. I thought about the deacon who taught our New Members Class, at the Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, in Jacksonville, Florida; and the question he asked us, at the beginning of the class. I wrote *Why I Am A Baptist* to share my answer to his question.



The Episcopal Preparation Series



THE EPISCOPAL PREPARATION SERIES

I was consecrated to the sacred office of the Episcopacy, on the evening of Friday, August 4, 2006; by United Kingdom Builders International Ministries (UKB). I was living overseas, at the time, and came home for the Consecration. Six years later, when I returned to the States, for good, UKB was essentially inactive. At that time, I aligned with Kingdom Destiny Fellowship International; and, eventually became the chairman of the Board of Adjudication, for that organization. I developed materials for Bishop's Training, in 2013; but there were so many pages that it made sense to publish the materials in an easy-to-navigate format. A Compendium of the Episcopacy emerged from this.

Later in 2014, I wrote *The Adjutant's Manual*, building in part on the information from *Second Best*; and in part on the information from a Compendium of the Episcopacy. The idea for *The Episcopal Examination* came from a conference I attended in February 2014, offered by a company called StarhCHURCH. The facilitator, Raul Rivera was introducing their "Ordination" software; and he was making the case for why their ordination examination consisted of three hundred questions. I thought to myself, "Why shouldn't bishops have to pass an examination that's at least as tough as this?"

SECOND BEST – BUT NOT SECOND RATE

Biblical Eldership and How to Be the Best Assistant in Ministry

I was very excited when I learned that I had been accepted to the faculty for the 1995 School of Ministry for the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship Conference. Bishop Kenneth Ulmer was the Bishop of Christian Education, that year we received the Prospectus for the classes that were to be offered; and at some point, I was assigned to teach a class for elders, called, "Second Best". The coursebook I wrote for this class was 22 pages long; but the reaction to it was overwhelming. Many of the people who read it insisted that I should publish it. Almost two decades later, I did.



This book encapsulates the seminal work Bishop Johnson first presented to the School of Ministry for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship in July 1995. The content has been revised, so as to impart to the leaders of the 21st century church; particularly pastors and elders; territorial overseers; auxiliary leaders; bishops; apostles; and prophets.

Beginning from an admittedly "Baptist" point of view, the book begins by talking about how the church grew from a virtual "one man show", to a structured entity, with elders serving essential ministry functions.

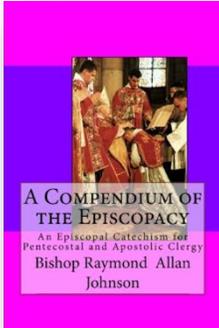
In the 2014 revision, *Second Best* also talks about some of the "rookie mistakes" that new pastors sometimes make, that not only compromise their effectiveness, but also can play a role in that pastor's becoming discouraged, and throwing in the towel; and that also highlight the importance of having a spiritual covering ...someone to turn to for advice, when facing difficulties.

The second part of the book looks at the role of the pastor as the shepherd of the local flock. Drawing upon the qualities of a good shepherd, outlined in the ubiquitous 23rd Psalm, *Second Best* stresses that the pastor has three primary duties of feeding, leading, and caring for the sheep that have been entrusted to him/her.

Order from Amazon, Google Books, Kindle, and other fine booksellers

A COMPENDIUM OF THE EPISCOPACY

An Episcopal Catechism for Pentecostal and Apostolic Clergy

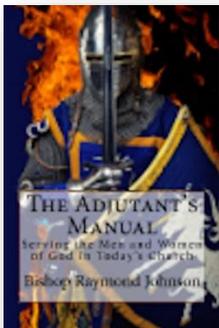


A Compendium of the Episcopacy is not simply another book about the bishopric. It is, instead, a handbook offering a concise set of information that can be useful for training men and women aspiring to the “fine work” of the episcopacy – and those already serving in this fine work – regarding the history, rituals, vestments, and protocols pertinent to this anointed office. The Compendium gives an exploratory account of the development of the episcopacy, from the time it was first transmitted to the early successors to the Apostles. It pinpoints the places where the various streams of Apostolic Succession began; and answers the pertinent questions as to where the numerous streams of Succession have an impact upon the episcopacy, within Apostolic and Pentecostal community. Furthermore, it points to historical events in the history of the Church that bear upon Pentecostal Faith and Practice, today. As with any handbook of this sort, the aim of the Compendium is also to familiarize

the episcopal candidate, as well as the apprentice bishop, with the rituals that pertain to our office; but at a far broader than usual scope. That includes a careful look at the history of the Pentecostal and Apostolic Faith. As intellectually competent clergy we are called upon to be sure that we are well enough informed about our spiritual heritage as we can be. By seeking out historic truths for ourselves, we won't need to follow every new trend that comes along in ministry; and won't participate in useless arguments – especially with individuals who won't give due diligence to the cause of learning; and/or who are so stuck in ignorance that they refuse to listen to reasoned arguments supported by scholarship.

THE ADJUTANT'S MANUAL

Serving the Men and Women of God in Today's Church

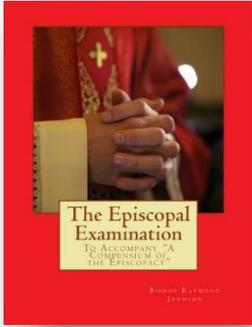


This book is intended for the sacred garrison of anointed men and women of God assigned to protect and to serve the leadership of Body of Christ. There are many general references that offer explanations and advice on what Adjutants should do, and how to be an Adjutant; in fact, the magnum opus of our craft is found in a book called *God's Armorbearer*, by Elder Terry Nance. In historic times knights were military operatives who were appointed to the service of monarchs and other high-ranking nobles. In our time the Adjutancy serves the highest-ranking leadership of the Church. Over the course of these pages, we have attempted to convey an image of the Adjutancy that reinforces this idea of Christian knighthood.

Purchase from Amazon, Kindle, Google Books and other fine booksellers

THE EPISCOPAL EXAMINATION

To accompany *A Compendium of the Episcopacy: An Episcopal Catechism for Pentecostal and Apostolic Clergy*



The Episcopal Examination is a comprehensive examination of the precepts taught in the book *A Compendium of the Episcopacy*. The exam is divided into five sets of 50 questions; totaling 90 questions covering the History of the Episcopacy and Apostolic Succession; 60 questions regarding The Emergence of Orthodoxy; 60 questions about Pentecostal and Apostolic History; and 40 questions about the Forms and Rituals of the Episcopacy. It is designed to be randomized to the pleasure of the Catechist, who can administer the whole exam, or can choose to administer only one or a few of the series.

STILL SECOND BEST

(Summer 2019)

We haven't started writing *Still Second Best*, but we envision talking about Biblical Eldership from the vantage point of how to structure a program of training and development for persons entering ministry, for the first time.



The Leaving the Watchtower Series

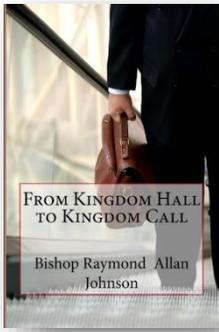


THE “LEAVING THE WATCHTOWER” SERIES

If you are reading this, no doubt you know me well enough to know that I was raised a Jehovah’s witness. I started writing my story, back in 1990. I literally spent years in the library, compiling and collating information that would benefit people with no knowledge of the inner workings of the Watchtower Society, and their teachings. I had the catchy title “From Kingdom Hall to Kingdom Call”, which I thought was quite ironic; and I had a broad outline of what I wanted to include in the book. When I announced that I was beginning to write, a dear friend brought me a six-pack of legal pads, and a lap desk. The lap desk came in handy, because I was a bus driver, at the time, and the desk allowed me to have a comfortable surface to write on.

In a time before the internet, and before I ever owned a personal computer, I accumulated three thick pads of notes, and references. I composed the book’s manuscript on my IBM Selectric III typewriter – pretty high tech, for that time. Years later, I re-typed everything onto 3 ¼ inch floppy disks; and carried all but one disk with me, when I left for China. Had I not done that, I wouldn’t have had any of the books in this series.

FROM KINGDOM HALL TO KINGDOM CALL



This book is the story of a man who was raised in one of the world's largest and best-known hetero-doxical religions; and walked away to become a minister in the Baptist Church. Bishop Johnson's mother became a Jehovah's witness when he was six months old, so growing up Watchtower doctrine was all he knew. He left the Jehovah's witnesses at the age of twenty-three; and his younger sister left as well, three years later.

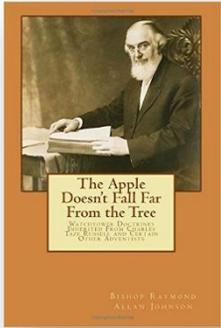
Watchtower doctrine mandates that all Jehovah's witnesses in good standing must shun anyone who either leaves the organization, or is cast out – even members of one's own family. In the first chapter Bishop Johnson's story begins with a tribute to his late mother; who refused to alienate her children, and probably came under harsh scrutiny as a result. In the book he tells the reader about the Society's controversial disciplinary policy, called “Disfellowshipping;” while at the same time giving the reader a whimsical look at life in the

Kingdom Hall he attended for most of his childhood.

Bishop Johnson wrote From Kingdom Hall to Kingdom Call to be an inspiration and offer words of encouragement to Jehovah's witnesses; ex-Jehovah's witnesses; student Jehovah's witnesses; and all other seekers to 'The Truth.' As his story draws to a close, he writes: “You might not remember more than half the stories I have told you in this book: a lot of what I have told you has absolutely nothing to do with the 'end story;' but if you take nothing else away from my story, please let it be the deliberativeness by which the Holy Spirit moves us into the path of our destiny, if we are willing to let Him – if we don't try to push back against the tailwind.”

THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

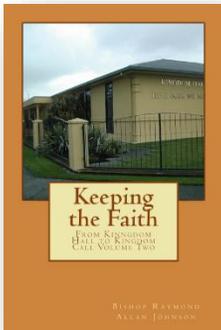
Watchtower Doctrines Inherited from Charles Taze Russell and Certain Other Adventists (Leaving the Watchtower)



Since the time of Charles Taze Russell, the publications of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society – the parent organization of Jehovah’s Witnesses – have stated publicly that they believe their understanding of God’s Word to be superior to the understanding of any and all other religious groups. Russell, and subsequently the witnesses have consistently alleged that their superior prophetic insight derives from direct divine revelation from Jehovah God. In their view, Jehovah communicates exclusively with the small remnant of older Witnesses – known collectively as the Faithful and Discreet Slave (class), of Matthew 24:45. In *The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree*, Bishop Johnson – a former Jehovah's witness of twenty-three years – argues that the Society's doctrines are NOT the product of divine revelation, but are consistent with similar doctrines taught by other Adventist groups, and might have actually been borrowed from Adventist sources known to Russell.

KEEPING THE FAITH

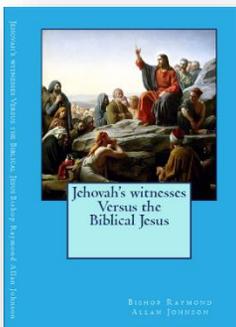
From Kingdom Hall to Kingdom Call Volume 2



This book is a sequel to my semi-autobiographical work, entitled *From Kingdom Hall to Kingdom Call*. In the first book I talked about my experiences growing up in the Jehovah’s witness religion, and attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall. Volume Two – *Keeping the Faith* – is the story of what happened next, and of what has happened over more than four decades, since leaving the Jehovah’s witnesses behind, and becoming a Christian.

From preaching my initial sermon, in 1975; to embracing Pentecostalism; to Consecration into the sacred office of the Episcopacy, and ministry in the underground House Church movement, in the Peoples Republic of China, leaving the Watchtower was the beginning of a very fulfilling journey of faith.

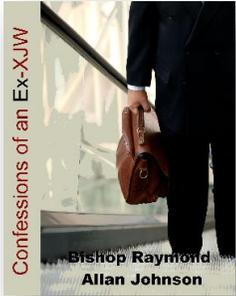
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES VERSUS THE BIBLICAL JESUS



Jehovah's witnesses Versus the Biblical Jesus is the fourth book in the "Leaving the Watchtower" series, written by Bishop Johnson. In this book we explore what the Church has believed about Jesus Christ, since its inception -- and in contrast with what Jehovah's witnesses teach about Him. By the grace of God, some of the issues about the deity of Christ have been settled by our ancient Church Fathers; and explored in depth by great Christian leaders and teachers, ever since. We re-open this conversation, though settled, for the sake of the thousands who are presently coming to terms with the Watchtower society's beliefs; and are seeking to understand what the Bible really says about Jesus Christ. Buy at Amazon, Kindle, and other fine booksellers.

CONFESSIONS OF AN EX-XJW:

From the Hallowed Halls of “Organized Religion,” And The Worldwide Apostate Movement



Confessions of an EX-XJW was the title of a letter that Bishop Johnson sent to his fellow ex-Jehovah’s witnesses (XJWs), in the “XJW Community,” in February 2011. It stated that, after more than 35 years, he no longer identified as an “XJW.” Yes, he still follows several XJW discussion groups, but not in any leadership role.

In this book, Bishop Johnson shares his thoughts on some of the most current questions and topics of discussion, in the groups. He talks about “Organized Religion;” “JW Apostates;” “Memorial crashers;” “The TRUTH;” and other hot topics. It is a direct appeal to the XJW Community; but an insightful peek for everyone, into the drama that accompanies the lives of the many people who have come out of the Watchtower organization, either by choice or by expulsion.

By the time he created XJW-Central, in 1998, Bishop Johnson (then, Elder Johnson) had been a Christian for longer than he had been a Jehovah’s witness. After a decade as moderator, he was living, working, and doing ministry overseas; so, he turned the management of XJW-Central over to others.

Bishop Johnson has continued to pay attention to what is happening in the “XJW community; and some of the questions that have come up, there prompted him to write this book.



The Song Project



THE SONG [宋] PROJECT

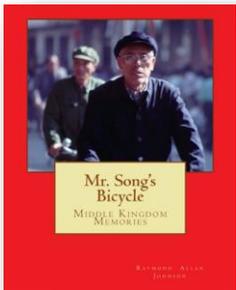
Mr. Song [宋] is a fictional character I created, when I lived in Nanchang. I was on my way to work, one morning, waiting for traffic to pass so I could cross the street and wait for a taxi. In the early morning, most vehicular traffic flowed in an eastward direction; but on this morning my attention was drawn toward a man riding his bicycle in the opposite direction. I had never seen anyone paddle a bicycle so slowly, which is what caught my attention, in the first place. I thought to myself that this man must be heading toward the park, two blocks west of where I was standing. I didn't know who this man was, but from that moment he became "Mr. Song", to me. What's more, I made it up in my mind to write a book called "Mr. Song's Bicycle", that would be more-or-less a journalistic diary of my stay in China.

By force of habit, I started accumulating articles that I thought would be helpful in telling the story. I also kept a folder on my computer in which, in addition to the articles I was collecting, I could also save little anecdotal observations about this intriguing place. By now, the folder is enormous. In 2018, I finally edited down all that I had, and wrote the book, in three volumes.

When the word got out about my culinary background, I began to get invitations to eat at places where I could get to fully appreciate the rich diversity in Chinese cuisine. I also had a chance to go into a couple of kitchens, and share some popular American dishes, with the chefs in those kitchens. Mr. Song's Dinner Table is the product of that culinary exchange.

MR. SONG'S BICYCLE:

Middle Kingdom Memories

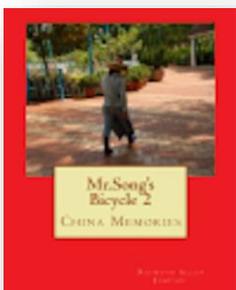


You can accumulate a lot of stuff, in seven years. I am writing this book because I needed somewhere to put my stuff: my pictures, my notes, my ad hoc observations. In my first five years living here, I've taken more than 5,000 pictures; and accumulated enough other digital stuff to fill up almost a half terabyte of hard disk space.

Throughout these pages I have, for the most part, been deliberately anecdotal; except where being analytical better suits the narrative. Growing up Black in America, I have learned that portraying a race of people in any single, monolithic fashion is a great social mistake; but all too common. My goal in this writing is not to try and personify ALL Chinese, but rather to give a composite view of what a westerner coming to China for the first time might find.

MR. SONG'S BICYCLE VOLUME TWO

China Memories



I started writing this book in 2007, while I was still in China; with writing notes and observations, and collecting articles. I actually did not begin to pull these resources together until 2012, when I got back to America. I had a computer crash, in 2017, and lost two-thirds of my pictures. Thankfully, I did not lose the "Song Project" folder, in the crash.

In Volume One of this book, Mr. Song's Bicycle: Middle Kingdom Memories, I addressed the accidents and (often fortunate, but sometimes unfortunate) events that brought me to China.

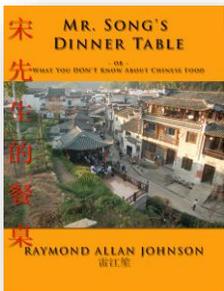
Nanchang was also an hour to an hour-and-a-half, by air, from Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen (and Hong Kong), Fujian, Wuhan, and some other places I did not get to visit. That

means, with my camera in hand, I was in proximity to some of the most beautiful and picturesque parts of the country. That means I could live Scott's table top book.

Finally, the food! Literally most of what we know as "Chinese food," in the United States is unheard of, in China; and the rich variety of what we had available to us is unheard of in most of America. First of all, there was a time in parts of rural China where electricity and refrigeration were not available. That sounds horrible to us, until we consider that the advantage of this was that many Chinese families adopted the practice of shopping for food, daily; and so even in restaurants, Chinese food tends to be made from fresh ingredients. Some outdoor markets still sell live animals, that they slaughter and dress for you, on the spot. Farmers bring their vegetables directly from the farm to you, exposing a large variety of fruits and vegetables you might not otherwise know existed. And, the fact that there are eight regional styles of Chinese cuisine (bādàcàixì 八大菜系) means that your taste buds will always be happy, when you sit down to the table. Now that this book is finished, I can begin to finish Mr. Song's Dinner Table, the third book in the "Song Project" series; which will talk about Chinese food. See you, then!

MR. SONG'S DINNER TABLE

Or What You Don't Know About Chinese Food

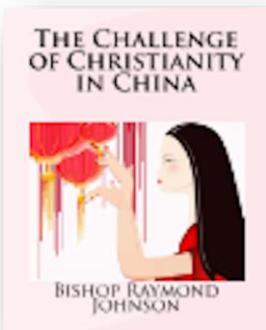


This book is an introduction to Chinese cuisine. Americans love Chinese food; I am no exception. Most Chinese restaurants in the United States maintain that they are serving Cantonese food; with a small segment having at least some menu items that they claim to be either from the Szechuan region, or from Hunan Province. I was totally amazed at what I learned about authentic Chinese food. For the sake of the classroom, I downloaded menus from a number of Chinese restaurants, in the United States. I was careful to include at least a few menus that had the Chinese-language names of the menu items, in the margins. To my surprise, the people I showed these menus to either did not recognize most of the dishes, or did not recognize the methods of preparations, that they saw in pictures I showed them.

It occurred to me that I should write a book to introduce the Chinese food culture to my countrymen. In 2013 I received a call from the Singapore office of Trafford Publishing Company – now called Partridge Press – which fueled the idea of publishing this book; and helped motivate me to get started with the other books you see, in this catalog. I hope that I can finish it, sometime this year.

CHURCH IN CHINA

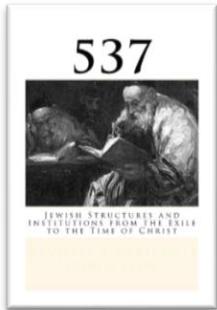
THE CHALLENGE OF CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA



Christianity has always been a minority religion in China. It is the second of three big world religions to come to China from the outside. It arrived -- after Buddhism and before Islam; and has progressed through about five well-defined eras, during which Chinese became Christians, and then went underground, or were driven out, or killed. As Chinese society struggled in turmoil at the turn of the twentieth century, Sun Yat-sen, an overseas Chinese Christian, rose to lead a revolution that gave birth to the Republic of China. The once unthinkable — that a Chinese leader would be a Christian — became a reality. Moreover, China's next leader, Chiang Kai-shek, turned to Christianity in order to marry the future Madame Chiang Kai-shek. But when the Communists came to power they put forth great effort to eradicate Christianity as the religion of the Imperialists; and in 1954 established the Three Self Patriotic Movement with its three principles of 'self-governance, self-support, and self-propagation'. This is

the story of the challenges Chinese Christians have had to face, in order to maintain their faith.

537: JEWISH STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS FROM THE EXILE TO THE TIME OF CHRIST



In my early days in ministry, I read through Alfred Edersheim's *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. In Book 1, Chapter 8 of *The Life and Times* Edersheim talks in brief about the rise of the Jewish sages, or "Chakhamim," as well as their contributions toward the emergence of the Sopherim (Scribes), and eventually the Pharisees and Sadducees. It got me thinking about these structures that we read about, for the first time, in the New Testament. There is nothing in the New Testament that tells us who these people were, where they came from, or why they yielded so much influence, during the lifetime of our Savior.

We know from history, and from several Old Testament references, that in 537 B.C. – the first year after his defeat of Babylon – the Persian king Cyrus the Great issued an edict giving Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem, with the resources to restore the Temple. (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4) The circumstances that led to the emergence of the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and other Jewish institutions that were of importance in the time of Christ, began with this momentous return from the Exile, in 537.

This book takes a 500-year journey, beginning with the birth of Judaism, and the so-called "Silent Years," from the end of the Old Testament to the beginning of the New. It has a look at what took place in the spiritual and political life of the people of Judæa, in this so-called "Intertestamental Period," and how the things that took place, in that time influenced the structure of the Jewish religious community we encounter in the Gospels.

The beginning of Judaism might not have been intentional. It is probably safe to say that the religion that confronted Jesus Christ, in the very earliest stages of the New Testament story, was at least in part a by-product of the circumstances its people encountered over the centuries after their return from exile, in Babylon; and perhaps also affected by other political and social events, over the course of the same five centuries.

WHY I AM A BAPTIST



I was twenty-three years old, when I joined the Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, in Jacksonville, Florida. All of my life, up until about five months before I joined Bethel, I had been a Jehovah's witness. When I left the Jehovah's witnesses, I joined the Nation of Islam, for about three months. It was during these three months that I encountered one of Bethel's deacons, who witnessed Christ to me, and shared his testimony.

In New Member Orientation class, the teacher confronted us with a question that has resounded in my mind for the forty-four years, since then: "Why are you a Baptist?" to be honest, I had never learned anything about Baptists, when I was a witness. I was at this Baptist church, because my friend who witnessed Christ to me was a member of this church, and had invited me to come. Otherwise, to answer the teacher's question, I had to first know what a Baptist is. Forty-four years later, this book starts by answering that question, and finishes with my answer to the teacher's question.

In "Why I Am A Baptist," I tell you what I learned about me: from discovering what a Baptist IS, to discovering the Baptist in me, who has always' been there ... even when I was a JW.

This book is not intended to tell you how to be a Baptist; or, to answer the teacher's question, for you. If that were my intent, I would have chosen a different title. But it will present a short history of the Baptist Church, from the early beginnings, to its arrival in North America, to the events that led to the launching of the first Black Baptist churches in the United States, and beyond.



The Encouragement Series

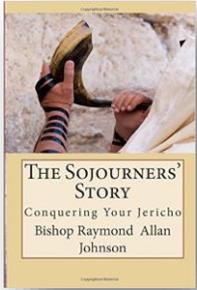


THE ENCOURAGEMENT SERIES

I published *The Sojourners' Story – Conquering Your Jericho* in 2015. It is a compilation of sermons I have preached, over the years centered around the fulfillment of a promise that God made to Abraham to give his seed a land that would be theirs for an inheritance; and the struggles God's people endured, in travelling through the desert, on their way to the Promised Land. I am beginning to write the second book, *Broken to Bread*, which began in China with a sermon series, called "Jesus Sandwich". It will also be a compilation of sermons I have preached, over the years; and other encouraging homilies.

THE SOJOURNERS' STORY

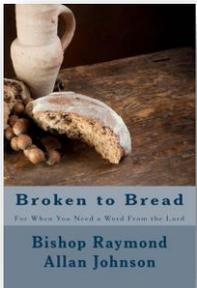
Conquering Your Jericho



The Sojourners' Story begins when an obscure Bedouin shepherd left his tent with his son and a pile of wood, and climbed up the hill of destiny: an inauspicious place that carved out of time a shift in your destiny, and my destiny, and the destiny of every man, woman, boy, and girl; in every generation that followed. It begins with the promises and covenants God makes to that shepherd and his descendants to anoint them as the bloodline through whom the Savior of the world would come; and to give his seed a homeland that would prevail and persist as theirs through all subsequent generations, even down to this present day, its promises, and God's faithfulness to them, foreshadow everything that we hope for in the promises that He has made to us; and connects our sojourn through this world with that of God's people in every generation

BROKEN TO BREAD

For When You Need a Word from the Lord



The Sunday services have finished. The switch on the melodious organ has been turned off, and the choir has hung their gowns in the choir room. The custodian has locked the doors to the sanctuary; and everybody has gotten in their cars, and drove off.

at home, you kick off the uncomfortable shoes and the suffocating corset. You plop down in your comfortable easy chair, switch on the TV, and settle in to the humdrum monotony of your real, everyday life. You are at home, now, and at home is the one place where you can be – *must* – be yourself.

You stood in line, as usual, today, hoping for a breakthrough. The preacher layed his hands on you, and you danced for a minute or two; but when it was over you didn't feel that anything about your situation had changed.

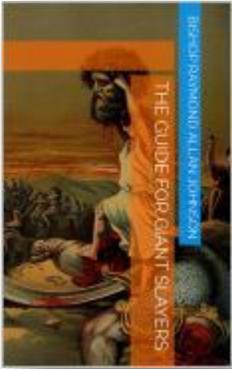
Oh, how you needed a word from the Lord.

This is a book for the broken; for anyone who has ever found themselves going through, in a "dry place," "needing a word from the Lord. It does not contain any magical formulae or benign promises of great wealth; just some words of encouragement, from the Savior, Who declares that "I am the BREAD of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

The simple message is, it does not matter about our broken relationships, broken condition, broken minds, broken hearts, or broken spirits, we live with the assurance that Jesus gives to us, that he is the Bread of Life. Jesus is our most basic need that fills our hunger.

Our brokenness does not matter, because Jesus is our BREAD of Life.

THE GUIDE FOR GIANT SLAYERS



Under ideal circumstances, we usually meet some very nice people, at church. As a young man in ministry, though, I became aware of a truth, about church folk, that would color my perceptions of them, for the next four decades, or so. I believe it was either Sandy Patty, or Evie Tornquist, who wrote a song in which she talked about what happens, when we turn off the lights in the church, and go home; and, that's when it hit me: there are potentially two sides to every person we meet, at the church house.

First and foremost, there is the person we see; all decked out in their fine "Sunday clothes," carrying their beautiful, leather-bound Bible, under their arm, smelling good, hair on point. This is the person with the most moving testimony, the lead soloist in the choir, or sitting on the Deacon Board, or in the pulpit. We look at this person, and say a secret prayer that God would somehow let a little of that person's anointing rub off on us.

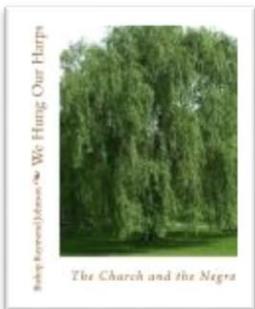
But, when church is over; and the lights and instruments are turned off, and the sanctuary is empty – perhaps as soon as when that person turns the key in the ignition -- - that's when the real person begins to manifest. The person we didn't see in church is now alone, and can honestly come face to face with their issues. What we didn't see is the struggle to make ends meet, even to pay the car note on that fine automobile. What we didn't see is the rebellious child, strung out on drugs, or nursing a teenage pregnancy.

What we don't see in church is the poverty and lack of sufficiency that so many of our most faithful members contend with; the sickness and mental challenges; marital infidelity, doubt, anger, addictions of many sorts, trouble on every side.

This is a book about giants, to be sure. But it is also a book about giants, as a metaphor for the challenges and struggles that beset even the best of us. It is a book about the stuff that testimonies are made of. It is a book about the giant slayers; but it is also a book that exposes some of the pain that visited them, when they weren't on the battlefield.

We begin by looking at two heroes of the faith, that you may have learned about in Sunday School. We will see them in battle; and we will see them dealing with their struggles at home. And, we will search the riches of God's word for other scenarios where He helps us to overcome our giants.

WE HUNG OUR HARPS: THE CHURCH AND THE NEGRO



The story of the Black church in America is but one narrow component of the larger story of slavery in America. It is large enough to stand on its own, without – at the same time – encroaching on the larger story, too much. Not that we could avoid the subject of slavery in America, altogether (nor should we want to) – the Black church, in America, burst forth from the womb of an enslaved people – some discussion of the slave trade is absolutely critical, by way of contextualizing the evolution of the Black church, as an institution.

In *We Hung Our Harps*, we will explore the story and history of the Black church, from the vantage point of its place in the life of the Black community, with an eye toward also unveiling the historical factors that allow this institution to persist.

We will visit the historical aspects of this story, later. First, I want to lay the ground work for what we are talking about. In order to proceed with this part of the story, I need to first go on record, in disagreeing with the HuffPost article, by Princeton professor Eddie Glaude, Jr. True, "African American communities are much more differentiated," now, than has historically been the case; but, there is hardly enough "differentiation," here, to declare the Black church dead. Nor, are there enough Black Conservatives, or Blacks abandoning the churches in their

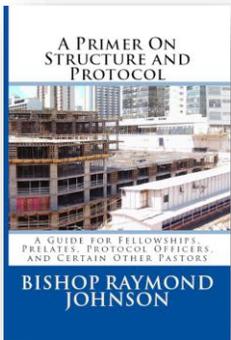
community, in favor of mainstream “non-denominational” ministries, like Lakewood, or Free Chapel Worship Center, or Saddleback, to effect the death of the New Births, or Mt. Calvarys, or Zion Hopes of the country.

To be sure, the entity we call the Black church is changing, beyond the narrow parameters that once defined it – even as recently as a quarter of a century ago. We are no longer just Baptists, or Methodists, or Pentecostals. We are not even confined to the walls of a physical building, to get out spirits fed. And, yet, we could probably point to events that are unrelated to the church as having a unifying effect on the church, as a whole.

STRUCTURE, PROTOCOL AND EVENTS PLANNING SERIES

A PRIMER ON STRUCTURE AND PROTOCOL:

A Guide for Fellowships, Prelates, Protocol Officers, and Certain Other Pastors



The premise behind A Primer on Structure and Protocol is as the title suggests: “a guide for fellowships, prelates, protocol officers, and certain other pastors.” A primer is a textbook created broadly for teaching or presenting some of the basic elements of a subject.

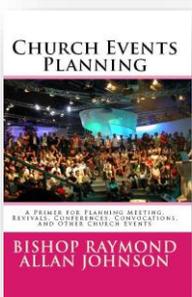
The impetus to write this book came from things I have observed in the past few years that created in my spirit the burning need to be the “iron that sharpeneth iron.” I love the Body of Christ, and want to see all of its servants succeed; and avoid the pitfalls that have toppled – or nearly toppled – other Fellowships, including the place where I currently serve.

Even though the approach to each topic/chapter in this book might seem to have been hypothetical, everything I have written has been based on something I’ve observed, firsthand. The recommendations originated with the basic question, “What would *I** do, in that situation?” Writing them down, my objective was to provoke you to ask the same question.

If the end-result of this book is that we end up with better “Fellowships” – LEGENDARY Fellowships – then we will have done what we set out to do.

CHURCH EVENTS PLANNING:

A Primer for Planning Meeting, Revivals, Conferences, Convocations, and Other Church Events



Your new "Fellowship. "

Your first Holy Convocation; and you want to be sure it's done in excellence. Maybe it's not so large and event as a convocation. Maybe it's a revival, or the first of what you hope will be an annual conference. Still ... you want it to be done in excellence.

Whether it's a "campaign meeting, " with 10-15 people, or Megafest, you want the people who attend your event to savour their experience, just as they would a scrumptious meal.

The truth is, a good meeting -- one that goes off, seamlessly, with all the right elements in place – does resonate well in the minds of those who attend. In the same way, a poorly-executed meeting will also resonate in the minds of the people who attended it; but not in a good way. People will notice and remember all the things that went wrong; and – even if you did many other things well – will make those things what they take away from your event.

That was the driving force behind the present work. This book came to life, during the early stages of a meeting we were planning, to take place here, in Detroit. To be honest, we thought we needed to make a case for why Detroit has always been a great venue for the kind of meeting we were planning, as opposed to other places that might have been under consideration.

We thought about some of our best events, from “back in the day,” and everything that went into them. Yes, we were fortunate that some of the people connected to us brought things to the table that contributed to our success; but, some of these “best case” outcomes are also worth sharing. Indeed, some things we accomplished were nothing short of FAVOR. But who is to say you won’t have the same kind of favor?

We started, each time, with an outline of all the elements we needed to consider, in planning for a LEGENDARY event; and, as we began to put all the pieces in place, a clear pattern for a new book on the subject was taking shape. Much of what will follow is the result of serious reflection on what we learned, back then.

So, what are the elements of a good meeting? Let’s take a journey, together, to talk about that.