

Weeds in the garden

In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. Gen1 verses 1 to 4

Anyone of you who know you have been called to be a Son or Daughter of God, by His calling and His choosing have entered into an eternal relationship with the Master creator, our beloved Father, God. We are bound to Him, by His own work that was accomplished through His Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour, by an act of mercy and everlasting LOVE.

We are bound to an eternal love and kept by pure GRACE. HIS GRACE. We are enwrapped with a divine purpose free from the demand of the LAW. We are eternally connected to the everlasting source of life and creativity in the person of Jesus Christ. We live and move and have our being in the eternal, Father God. This was all made possible by His willing, Son, Jesus who took on human flesh for an eternal purpose that only He could achieve.

This purpose was to reconcile us to God so that we again could have a right relationship with Him. In this right relationship we go on to discover our true identity and our true purpose in life.

Through Jesus Christ the penalty of sin has been dealt with once and for all. SIN which we inherited from our first human parents Adam and Eve, after they were deceived by that, fallen angel who once held a supreme position of service and glory, Lucifer, as he was known in heaven...

Until the light shines into the heart of any person, that person is held captive and blinded by that fallen angel who is the father of lies, also known as Satan. But there is one stronger than he and His name is JESUS and He is able to save to the utmost those who call upon HIS NAME. He rescues us from the curse of SELF serving and enables us to become servers of OTHERS, a truth totally contrary to the rudiments of this world unless it's for self gain, or self reputation and self promotion on some level, and especially in those who secretly pride in their SELF humility and not true humility which can only be recognised and lived through that HOLY SPIRIT LIFE of, JESUS IN YOU. Jesus comes to save but it is with a truth that is offensive to the natural course of man and the way of the world who prefer to be lovers of themselves than lovers of God.

Some time after I had been born again I started to see the world and God's creation with new eyes. Suddenly trees danced in the wind and the leaves shone with the light of the sun and

were expressing a life, an expression of the creator that I had never seen before. Suddenly a peaceful lake or place of calm water, like the lochs in Scotland or the Lake District gave me an impression that in heaven, there is no chaos, there is peaceful order and great calm and energy of worship and awe that is unending. I started to see the sustaining life of all things, in a person, in a life giver who looked upon His creation and saw that it was good.

It was good until sin was found in it!

In a garden, the gardener works for the upkeep and good of every area that his duty covers. He looks for weeds that invade areas of beauty and removes them so they do not suck out the life and nutrients that are necessary to feed the good and pleasant plants in the ground that are there for mans pleasure and enjoyment.

God gave Adam, the Garden of Eden to manage and prosper in, but through sin, he lost it. God still desires to see His Garden of Eden in the earth today but that can only truly come through His people. As it is in heaven, so let it be in the earth.

Our Father is the Master Gardener and when He looks down upon His creation He sees how Satan has set tares in the earth. These tares are set in the garden of Government, Media, Politics, Family, Education, Arts and Entertainment and Religion.

Remember, a garden is meant to be a place of beauty to behold and enjoy. A place to draw rest and comfort from. A place of reproduction and new growth, a place of continuous life, even in the dormant seasons. A place for the production of crops and fruits to nourish the body. A place of smells, sight and touch to please the soul and the senses. A place to repose and listen to that still small voice speak to our spirits. A place to see God at work in everything. ***Even in the dormant seasons.***

I have spent a lot of my life in the world of theatre and entertainment and also qualified as a professional gardener, so forgive me if I speak these two vocations sometimes as one and the same. I feel I can speak about some of the weeds in this garden of Arts and Entertainment and hopefully some of the flowers too.

From the beginning of the world we can see how our Father gave the command, lights, camera, and action! This is not an irreverent mocking of the creator or creation but just the analogy of how the all powerful movie director calls things into being by the word of his command. Such did God in creating the world.

God, the original Director who incidentally hasn't given up this job of overseeing the affairs of man despite many diverse and public opinions to the contrary, IS the original artist who commanded the universe, galaxies, rolling clouds and swirling seas to appear. Every plant and

herb has its own life and a story contained within itself which would be told in the appropriate time and season. Everything that appears in the world is made up of the substance that God set in the earth at the beginning of creation. In a similar regard what comes out of an artist whether it be in dance, drama, film is what he or she has the power to create by components and faculties that are expressed out of the soul and spirit within that person. He was made by the Creator and bears the image of the Creator and so his/her DNA is fused with the ability to create WORKS OF ART.

How does a written play become live drama, a movie script the next blockbuster, the next great song to win the hearts of a nation, the captivating work of art that leaves its onlookers speechless and in awe with nothing to say but a WOW! It starts with a seed, a germ of an idea that breaks out into reality when all the ingredients are put together in harmonious form and nurtured until it is released onto the world stage for all to choose or refuse, like or loathe, love or hate, but the object has been achieved, something has been created and released into creation! So the Father is pleased when we create something expressing the essence of Himself, something that is full of light. But wait, light can not be called light unless it is contrasted with its opposite, darkness, and to illustrate darkness light must be held up against it.

Some would say this is the way to good drama. There must be a conflict of interest. Night and day. Good and evil. Heaven and hell.

As followers of Jesus Christ we have the potential as God's children to create works of art that not only represent the Kingdom of God but bring the Kingdom down into the minds and hearts of those that see, hear and witness it being displayed by illustrations of a creative truth or to be more accurate a truth expressed creatively as Jesus did with the parables.

I know, some of you are probably asking, where is he going with all this?

Here's a thought. I want to go beyond Hollywood, beyond the best of Broadway and the West end in London. I want to experience heroes that are not done up to the nines in skin tight costumes and fit the staple diet of blond hair, blue eyes and sparkling teeth! Any chance of the great Denzel Washington having a go at James Bond? Rudolph Walker our new Sherlock with a Caribbean twist? Hey how about the full blockbuster movie treatment that tells the story of two Indian missionary martyrs who died in the service of Christ without the English or American actor tagging along for racial balance, as is so often the case! Yes we must look at racial imbalance in the arts! Justice cries out to be heard here too! I want to go beyond the status quo of British TV, where some is good, some is bearable and the rest I won't even waste my ink on! I want to see more sitcoms or drama series where we are invited not just fleetingly or

occasionally but more permanently into the homes of the ethnic minorities and see how they love each other and face life, especially where the veins of racism still function and pulsate in this great nation.

Thanks, we'll take your taxes but we don't need to hear your story.....well maybe once in a while for novelty's sake.

Don't be offended if it seems I'm cheering on the minorities, but how do you begin to explain to visitors to Britain that despite being a multi, MULTI- cultural nation only a few manage to get on our televisions with any sort of consistency and I don't mean the sky channels! Is this balance? Is it a true representation of multi-cultural open minded Britain?! For OUR entertainment? This is not meant to be a damning statement but it is asking you to take a CLOSER look at our so called more tolerant, more balanced, less racist, equal opportunity entertainment industry! Oh there are weeds in this garden of the arts and entertainment!

We who are members of the one body of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ are the ones who are meant to bring the saltiness to this garden. We don't bury light; we place it on the highest hill. Surely you who are spiritual know the weeds that escape over the airwaves daily. Judge for yourselves where the standard lies. What does the Master Gardener seek to do? He seeks to remove the weeds and treat the soil to something better. Something more lasting, enduring and pleasant to behold.

Christians wake up! Stop being ashamed of your gifts and use them! Pastors stop blocking the wells of another child of the Kingdom and help them to DIG and find treasure! Paul says we have this treasure in earthen vessels. Our life is hid in CHRIST, so let Him live in us and through us, FULLY! Do we encourage our creative and artistic brothers and sisters to a coming day when movies will be filled with the glory of God and that they may be a part of it? Or do we just roll over and let the world get on with it. Can we hope that a deep repentance will occur through dramas and plays that prophetically cry out to the lost and reveal that their only hope is in Christ, though His name may be never mentioned in the 'two hours traffic of our play'? Are they encouraged to let the Lion as much as the Lamb break out of them! The voice of the Spirit has not sounded retreat, so where are **you** going? Go into the entire WORLD! The time to be suspicious of the theatre and film is over! I address all saints within this sector of culture, the piece of the vineyard that the Lord has been pleased to place you in. **Be** the next theatre or film writer, director, actor, singer, poet, dancer, musician, commissioned with a Holy calling from your Father who can open doors that no man can shut! That valiant actor, Mel Gibson, charged through with the making of the PASSION OF THE CHRIST and shouted from the battlements, who else are breaching the walls? Don't single him out as the tabloids and so many others do. He is not the first to have fallen and lose credit with the multitude and we who are the light of the world, do we cry for mercy or judgement? I speak to you saints, if we do that, then we may

as well also say goodbye to Noah, Abraham, King David, Jacob, Moses, Peter, Paul and many others since, who all stumbled yet never were disowned by God. NEVER. If the world tries to shut you out then break open new ground and let them come to your light!

The Kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Rev11v15b

Where is the remedy to be found to work this garden properly and restore it to its former Glory? No, greater GLORY!

In YOU! Artist in Christ! Christ IN YOU the hope of Glory. The glory of a nation comes through the nation as it glorifies OUR FATHER and in every saint is the treasure to be found, in the person of Jesus Christ. If we know that the trinity dwells in us by the mystery, purpose and will of God then what we create is what God has formed in us and allowed to express. Yes some are called to be preachers; but all are called to be expressers and carriers of Gods Glory! Is it not so with creation itself? If we don't honour Him, the very stones WILL!

The planting season has come, the world is drying up with its pool to draw out creativity, and the world needs a new garden for its souls to rest in. It needs new water wells to drink from. It needs Eden restored. Britain and America can produce louder, bigger, more daring, but not better ART without the power of the Holy Spirit at work amongst the people in this industry. Its not industry that runs people but people who run industry! When we as saints fail to take our position as God has given it to us in the garden of Arts and entertainment, then we should not be shocked when God calls upon a Cyrus to do the work we have failed to do! Brothers and sisters, this is not to condemn you for there is no condemnation to those in CHRIST; it is to STIR UP THE GIFT WITHIN YOU! This may sound like an incredible statement and one wonders can we actually believe that the iron grip of Satan over so much of this industry can be broken. If murderers, robbers and evil dictators can be changed by the unrelenting power of Gods love, then so can this garden be cleared of stones, uprooted, dug over, ploughed, restored, sown and watered with new life from a more glorious stream. The day is coming when the Kings of movie and theatre will witness that God is coming down to earth through this greatly neglected gift in the body of Christ. He will tend His garden again through His servants that hear the call and respond. Those who will be about their Fathers business and create as they receive instruction from Him. Oh saints, you are full of the Father, if you be in Christ and if you would simply take HIM at HIS WORD.

An actor pretends to be a character from the page to the stage and we the audience believe him. We as GOD'S children tend not to really believe in OUR TRUE LIFE in CHRIST and that we

REALLY are His, by reason of our new birth, PERIOD! No need to get into character but just to BE by Believing. I AM loves you, teaches you and sends you, not I was or I'm gonna be! I AM!

Oh, oh that sounds a bit dodgy some say under their breath, others from the pulpit! Did not Jesus say that He and the Father would come and make their home in us? If we don't believe this is REALLY true, shall we ever, truly know? Christ in you (US), the hope of Glory in a practical, experiential way. You may ask how? Jesus says BELIEVE and HAVE FAITH IN GOD.

We must become those who cry out LORD, give me the songs, the music, the plays, the dances, the drama, the glorious stories that must come down from the storehouses in heaven that we may witness and experience these things upon the earth in the cinemas, the playhouses, the stadiums, the open fields, the universities, the colleges, the schools, the ipads, the iphones, the nurseries, the home! Is anything too hard for our God? Only the unbelieving say yes. Only the unbelieving say there are giants in the land! Only the unbelieving bring back a bad report and cannot see the promise land for this BIG, BIG WEED of UNBELIEF in this beautiful garden that is there for the celebration and Sabbath rest for mans soul! Recreation, creative rest for OUR benefit and GODS glory.

We must pray and intercede for those who we know are in this garden. Allow God to make you a watchman for their souls, and believe that this is a great medium for the Lord to be creatively at the work of redemption. To be seen as a Father who has endless power to display His creativity through His people for the good of all mankind. Amen.

If any of this has spoken to you then ask God to reveal who you are in this garden that celebrates life and creativity. Ask what border you are to tend to. Dance, writing, acting, filmmaking, singing, song writing, music, producer, cinematographer, director, the list goes on. Your Father knows who you are and He will confirm it to you, if He hasn't spoken to you already through these pages. KNOW JESUS and he will truly bring you into knowing yourself and you will begin the journey of being ALL He has called you to be.

All the above I exhort to believers in the house of God but with this warning. Maybe I have said some things which are pretty strong but then some things just need to be said and who are we to please, man or God? Paul said by this time YOU should be teachers. The foundation or the springboard through which all this is achieved is through love. GODS LOVE IN US GOING OUT TO OTHERS. To know true love must come from truly knowing God. Not about HIM. It's not enough to know His ways. We must go on to know Him. Ask him to reveal HIMSELF in YOU. We can trust him, so be of good cheer, He has an endless amount of ways to bring us into this knowledge all summed up in Jesus, living His life through us. Christ in us is for us to reach others. So we must remember that we do not fight against people in this industry but against those seducing spirits that help keep the truth of God and the glory of God out of this garden all

the while allowing it to be influenced by ruling powers and principalities. Spiritual wickedness in high places. All those outside of Christ are in darkness, and darkness is simply to be without light, true light, Jesus. The danger here is that Satan comes as an angel of light and so much of what we watch, hear or allow ourselves to be entertained with is coming from a counterfeit light or lesser light, from a lesser realm. Satan can not create, he can only counterfeit. Here, there is great need for discernment saints. Jezebel was a seducer. She painted her face to look attractive and alluring, but she wanted to kill Gods PROPHET. She wanted to shut down Elijah for good. But in the end it was she who was decimated and brought to nothing. God will have His garden again and remove the weeds. There are prophets who God has raised up in this hour that are releasing an important message called the 7 mountains message, which is well worth seeking out.(See back of book for details) See how God will speak to you, because the age that we are entering into is:

The Kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Rev11v15b

In the arts and entertainment world the garden is more often earthy than spiritual, but that is slowly changing. Just recently scandals in the BBC have erupted. Weeds are being forced up to be removed. God is shaking those things that can be shaken so that that which cannot be shaken will remain. Do you really think you'll be watching East Enders on plasma in Heaven! Oops, did I just step on someone's toe? Jesus told us YE ARE the LIGHT of the WORLD!

So what shall we do? What we don't do is condemn the entertainers who are trapped and blinded by the father of lies or Christians that have lost there way in the razzle dazzle of it all. We don't boycott outside playhouses because we get indignant because something gripes us, that's the worlds way, we can and perhaps should if you feel God initiating some form of protest in you but I think people will be more amazed and drawn to an undeniable display of a creative GOD appearing in ways that break upon the world scene from HEAVEN, unexpected and unpredictable and where people will have to say, surely God was in this place. If you're thinking that all that has been said in these pages to bring change IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE then you are absolutely right! BUT!!!! With this difference, GOD ALONE can cause these groundbreaking changes to happen and, yes, HE WILL DO IT WITH YOU AND THROUGH YOU! Through the CHRIST IN YOU he wants to produce heavenly creations that display the GLORY OF GOD.PRAY that God breathes upon your work. Pray that your gift makes room for you. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but ***are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds***. Some people will always be the servant of the deceiver, Satan and all his IMITATION of life. But I believe more and more Christians are awakening to the fact that the weeds must go. If we are in this industry it is to have influence, not be influenced. If we are the light in the world, we are so as actors, songwriters, directors, designers, dancers, writers, all the

beautiful flowers found in this garden, which is for our enjoyment, our celebration of LIFE. But we want Gods thumb print on it. This treasure in earthen vessels CHRIST in YOU and He desires to enter into the hearts of many and glorify the Father. But we need Him to show us how. We have the mind of Christ; God will teach us how to use it.

In conclusion, as is the way of life and gardens, we will never remove all the weeds permanently until the final hour of world history, but like faithful gardeners tending to the Masters interest, we are called to prepare the way for the coming KING and keep it prepared until HE arrives.

If God has been speaking to you about the destiny of Arts and Entertainment, also known as the Mountain of celebration in some circles, if you sense the need for fresh creativity, change and influence at every level in this garden, then perhaps you will in some form be or are experiencing the following:

- The Lord may be increasing a drawing of yourself alone or with others to secret prayer and intercession for people you know in the profession, whether just by sight or in person.
- He is starting to stir you to speak out, pronounce, and proclaim the very desires of His heart to see change in this creative garden.
- He will give you the creative stories, ideas, visions that are to be released upon the earth and over the airwaves through this industry.
- Sometimes you will be led spontaneously to intercede for the industry itself. The Holy Spirit will initiate these times and end them. He knows what we are able to bear.
- The Lord may for some but will definitely for others lead you to form production companies for His purposes of creativity to be displayed in the garden of Arts and entertainment.
- You will be led by the Lord to meet and fellowship with others who are sensing what God wants' to release in the arts and discover divine agenda's as you press on together.
- ***The above bullet points are just a few guides and by no means exhaustive. You will know if God is speaking to you as He will keep bringing back the things most pressing on your hearts. As in all things of God there will be those of you who are called to***

pray, intercede, support financially, those practitioners who are on the frontlines in this calling, but always in these matters, let God lead!

Those of you who have read this booklet will no doubt have various takes and opinions of Christians in Arts and Entertainment. It is not so much that all we are presented with has no worth from the world because the gift of God to create is in all, saved and unsaved. There are many believers who enjoy watching TV soap operas written by unbelievers and many unbelievers who may feel perfectly at home at a Christian concert, only God knows the hearts of all men. To show the world God's heart is to embrace the walk with Christ, fellowship with him in joy and sufferings and be the yielded vessel for His message to work through.

Isaiah 60 v 1-3: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

In conclusion.

I have not attempted to promote any type of theology or doctrine over another; everyone will differ in his or her views and convictions and even struggle with some of the things that have been said in this booklet. God always gives understanding to those who seek understanding, so don't dismiss a thing because you don't 'get' it at first. The Holy Spirit is our helper who wants to guide us into all truth. No matter what denomination you belong to or don't, if you are in the Arts, God can only touch the world through us His Body. Be bold; be determined to make a difference as the Lord establishes His purposes in you. You will not be without your struggles and your battles but look at those times as part of the process and wisdom of God to make you 'meet for the master's use, and prepared for every good work'. We have a right to be the light in this field at every level. We have the power and ability to change the landscape of art and entertainment in this nation, through the wisdom, might, power and LOVE of God. All is His and He makes us able. Let's make a difference brothers and sisters. Amen.

Other sources:

The Seven Mountain Prophecy and The Seven Mountain Mantle by Johnny Enlow. Website: www.SevenMountainProphecy.com both books carry a message for this generation concerning the seven shapers of culture in any nation. Both have a section on the Arts and Entertainment Industry.

Through a Screen Darkly by Jeffrey Overstreet available through www.regalbooks.com

The Key to Everything by Norman Grubb Author of the bestseller *Rees Howells, Intercessor*.

True or False, Heresy and Common sense for the actor by David Mamet. This is a great book for actors, blowing away some of the myths of auditions, training and performing and encouraging the actor to be a free and courageous thinker for himself and his art.

About the author:

Gary has worked extensively in the west end in shows such as Starlight Express, Five Guys Named Mo and The Lion King. He has also supported numerous stars with backing vocals such as Diana Ross, Shane Ritchie, Robson and Jerome, Cliff Richard and has also appeared in Gala and London Palladium Performances. He continues to write plays, music and is now exploring films.

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The Production Company that Gary is establishing is called 2B Told Productions. This is aimed at supporting and promoting new works in music, theatre and film.

All support and donations will be appreciated.

