

Outreaches and Ministry!

Bethlehem brain tumor testimony [Slide 1 when requested]

Can These Bones Live?

I. Chaos is Opportunity. Crisis is the Process!

A. Creative Potential — Transforming Chaos into Image

Gen 1:1 In the **beginning**, God **created** the **heavens and the earth**. 2 The earth was **without form and void**, and **darkness** was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was **hovering** over the **face** of the waters. *The Spirit (Breath) makes alive.*

Gen 1:26 Then God **said**, "Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**. And let them have dominion ... over all the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male** and **female** he created them. [Slide 2]

B. The Valley of Dry Bones — Hopeless Chaos

Ezek. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was **full** of bones. 2 And he **led me around among them**, and behold, there were **very many** on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were **very dry**.

3 And he said to me, "Son of man, *can these bones live?*" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." [Slide 3]

4 Then he said to me, "**Prophecy** over these bones, and **say to** them, O dry bones, **hear the word** of the **LORD**."

5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause **breath** to **enter** you, and **you shall live**. [Slide 4]

6 And I will **lay sinews** (connections) upon you, and will **cause flesh** (muscle, humanity, the Word becomes flesh) to come upon you, and **cover you with skin** (identity), and **put breath in you**, and

you shall live, (Holy Spirit - Lord and giver of life) and **you shall know** (relationship) that I am the LORD."

- 7 So I **prophesied** as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a **sound**, and behold, a **rattling**, and the bones **came together, bone to its bone** (joints of supply). 8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was **no breath** in them.
- 9 Then he said to me, "**Prophesy to the breath**; prophesy, son of man, and **say to the breath**, Thus says the Lord GOD: **Come** from the four winds, **O breath**, and **breathe on these slain**, that **they may live.**"
- 10 So I **prophesied** as he commanded me, and **the breath came** into them, and they **lived** and **stood** on their feet, an **exceedingly great army**.
- 11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, **they say**, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'
- 12 Therefore prophesy, and **say to them**, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, **I will open your graves** and **raise you** from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into **the land of Israel**. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.
- 14 And **I will put my Spirit within you**, and **you shall live**, and **I will place you in your own land**. Then **you shall know** that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

HOPELESS SITUATIONS? BIG MESS? BEYOND OUR FIXING?

II. Divine Word Unfolds Life out of Chaos

A. Transformation Through the Word

Ps 119:130 The **unfolding** of your **words** gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.

Lk 24:32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts *burn within us while he talked* ..., *while he opened to us* the Scriptures?”

NEED A RHEMA WORD TO OPEN UP AND LIGHT ON FIRE?

III. Chaos of Personal and Cultural Loss

A. Chaos in Culture is painful darkness - *The ways of society that ignore God.*

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that **the world might be saved** through him... 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness** rather than the light because their works were evil.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God **increasing disorder** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **by their unrighteousness suppress the truth**. ... 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,...

B. Light re-Creates - the Story of God's Love — Love one another, our neighbor, our enemy. Our motive is to make bring joy to the nations.

As a royal priesthood, we lovingly decree life. “Prophesy!”

Ro 8:31 What then shall we **say** to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **[Slide 5]**

Jn 8:31 “If you **abide in my word**, ..., 32 ... you will **know the truth**, and the **truth will set you free.**”

15:7 If you **abide in me**, and my **words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

11 These things *I have spoken* to you, **that my joy may be in you**, and that your joy may be full. 12 “This is my commandment, that you **love one another** as I have loved you.

IV. Light in the Chaos Releases the Blessing

It's all **relational**. We need to know the TRUTH about **relationships**.

So, we stay calm, and carry on with joyful faith in kindness and hope!

7 Creative Relational Decrees: Let there be light!

1. ***Between Husband and Wife*** — **Marriage is a comprehensive, permanent and exclusive union between one man and one woman.** [Slide 6]

*Marriage is a comprehensive union — of hearts, minds, and bodies. In marriage, spouses achieve **true organic bodily union**, a union **only possible between man and woman**. **Profound Mystery**- Christ and Church*

*Requires a total commitment from the spouses. Beautiful and good in and of itself and it is also fundamental to any society because **organic bodily union often produces children**.*

*Marriage allows **mothers** and **fathers** to give their children the promise of a stable and lifelong family bond, which children most need to flourish.*

We acknowledge the real challenges that exist to a strong union! Working through the obstacles together creates mature, confident children, generating a positive ripple effect.

2. ***Between Children and Adults*** — **Every child has a right to a mother and a father; no one has a right to a child.** [Slide 7]

Mothers and fathers provide unique gifts to their children. Each sex makes unique contribution towards the healthy psychosocial development of a child. We know the ideal is not always attainable, but we give praise for those who strive to meet it.

Every Child has

a. The **right to life** from **conception until natural death**, regardless of the circumstances of conception, sex, or family situation.

- b. The **right to be treated as a person**, not as a **commodity**. Children are a blessing – not something **owed** to an adult.
- c. The **right to modesty**.
- d. The **right to be raised according to one's biological sex and gender**.
*Boys and girls must be taught to celebrate the unique and fundamental gifts of their biological sex. **Gender is anchored by our biological sex**. It is not infinitely fluid and changeable. **6500 differences at gene level!***

3. Between Children and the Family — Bonds between children, parents, grandparents and extended family should be protected and preserved. [Slide 8]

*Kinship involves the ties to the **ancestral line** that led to our **existence**. This gives an **anchor to our identity**, helping us to understand where we came from.*

We admire adoptive and foster parents who seek to remedy broken bonds and open their homes to children in need with generosity and care.

FAMILIES! [Slide 9] *In you shall all the families be blessed*

4. Between Adults of the Same Sex — Every person has a profound need to be appreciated, known and loved in the context of authentic friendship. [Slide 10]

Authentic friendship** is a relationship of mutual appreciation, in which people desire each other's good and value each other's uniqueness. This is real, valuable and intimate—a union of hearts and minds, resulting in profound happiness. **We counter the confusing modern meme that all emotional intimacy can or should be sexual.

CLEANSED OF DEFILEMENT [Slide 11]

5. Between All Persons in a Civil Society — Every person possesses a unique dignity and is worthy of respect, regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, sexual feelings, race, educational level or religious or political ideas. [Slide 12]

We are for those who seek to engage in **meaningful conversations** that preserve the dignity of all involved, and we seek to add our own **positive voice**. We value **the dignity of the vulnerable** among us: the unborn, children, the elderly, religious and sexual minorities, and the poor.

6. Between Government, parents and children — Parents have a right and a responsibility to direct the education of their children. [Slide 13]

Government, and social institutions should **assist** parents in their educational task and **never usurp** parents' primary role, especially in sensitive areas pertaining to sexuality, marriage and family.

Parents today face governments, caregivers and providers that may seek — especially through sex-ed programs — to normalize and promote forms of sexual behavior that violate the consciences of many around the world.

7. Between Government and People of Faith — Every person has a right to freedom of conscience, thought, and religion, which includes the freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs in a public or private way so long as these beliefs and practices do not harm others. [Slide 14]

We celebrate the people who understand the positive role of religion in ordinary life and the importance of faith to the common good, whatever their professed creed.

In YOU Shall all the nations of the earth be blessed:

V. Commission to Declare the Goodness of God!

A. *Let there be Light! You ARE the LIGHT that RELEASES FREEDOM!*

B. *There are **NO HOPELESS SITUATIONS! IT MAY LOOK DEAD, LIKE I'm SURROUNDED BUT I'm ... IN YOU!***

[Ezek 37:3](#) And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." [4](#) Then he said to me, "**Prophecy** over these bones, and **say** to them, O dry bones, **hear the word of the Lord...**"

The GREAT COMMISSION:

[Rom 15:13 NIV](#) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dry bones, Hear the Word of the Lord!
Never Give Up! We will Never, never, never Give Up!