

Preaching with an *Open Bible*

I met Pastor Nyombi Philip a few years ago through a mutual friend. We invited him to our home for dinner and had a wonderful time together. Pastor Philip is from Uganda and since then we have stayed in touch. When visiting our home I gave him one of my dad's Study Bibles.

My dad went home to be with Jesus 9 years ago and yet his Bible is still being used weekly! I recently saw the attached photo of Pastor Philip preaching with an open Bible laying on the pulpit and commented how I love that. This was his response:

"This very Bible is the one you gave me inside your Study room where you kept your inherited Bible, if I remember correctly, from your father. And I cherish it very much. I even customized and engraved my name on it".

I'm just old fashioned enough to still believe in using an actual Bible while preaching rather than using an iPad or Tablet. There is something visually powerful about holding a Bible. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of Soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account". Hebrews 4:12,13, ESV.



Pastor Philip preaching with Philip's dad's Bible

The following testimony is from a teenage girl in Pakistan. Elsie and I have been communicating with her this past year and we were able to get a Bible for her. She was so grateful as it's her first very own Bible. I asked her if she would be willing to share a little of her testimony of what it's like to live in a Muslim country. The following testimony is in her own words. I'm not including her name because of privacy.

"Hope in the midst of Persecution"

"As a Christian living in Pakistan, I've faced my share of challenges and persecution. But despite the difficulties, my faith in Jesus remains strong, and is a source of hope and encouragement to me and my community.

Growing up in a Muslim-majority country, I was often exposed to negative stereotypes about Christianity. But when I came to

know Jesus, I discovered a love and acceptance that I had never known before. His teachings of forgiveness, compassion, and love resonated deeply with me, and I knew that I wanted to follow Him.

Living out my faith in Pakistan can be tough. I've faced discrimination, marginalization, and even threats from extremist groups. But Jesus' promise to be with me always (Matthew 28:20) gives me the courage to stand firm in my beliefs.

Despite the challenges, I've seen God work in amazing ways. I've witnessed people from different backgrounds and religions coming together in love and unity, and I've experienced the power of prayer and forgiveness in my own life.

My faith in Jesus means everything to me. It's a reminder that I am loved, I am valued, and I am part of a larger story that transcends borders and cultures. It's a source of strength and hope in the midst of persecution, and it inspires me to share His love with others.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story. May it be an encouragement to your supporters and a reminder of the power of faith in the midst of adversity.

I hope this testimony blesses your supporters and highlights the resilience and faith of Pakistani Christians".

I have been challenged by her faith. If you are known as a Christian in Pakistan, it's virtually impossible to get a job as they are given to Muslims. When I ask her about sending her a Bible, whether it's safe to send it or not, she wondered what I meant. So I told her I didn't want her to get in trouble for receiving a Bible in the mail. She assured me it's OK to send it, and furthermore, if she needs to die for her faith in Jesus Christ, she's very willing to do that. That made me really stop and think. In our country we take so much for granted. Too often, I take our religious freedom for granted. Jobs, food, good water to drink, a bed to sleep in, heat, air conditioning, cars, trucks, church houses to worship in and many other things are not available to many people in the world today. And yet many are more joyful, grateful, and thankful than I am.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you". Matthew 5:10-12, ESV

Philip Stutzman



Phil & Elsie

Souls4Him Ministries

Our Mission: Calling people to a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

P.O. Box 368 • Berlin, OH 44610 • 330-231-2589
 philipstutzman@gmail.com • souls4him.com

• • •

Board of Directors: David Swartzentruber, Vice President;
 Wayne R. Miller, Treasurer; Delon Troyer, Secretary; Philip Stutzman, President

Thirty Six Years!

There were three young men sitting in the front row of Light In The Valley Chapel on a warm August evening in 1988. Three books were placed on the table in front of them and we were told to each choose a book. One of the books had a small index card with the following verse, "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord". Proverbs 16:33 KJV. The date, August 28, 1988.

Each of us chose a book, mine being the last one. The index card was in my book. I was ordained as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ that evening, and it has been a very humbling, but rewarding experience for me. My uncle David gave me the following verse that evening, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." 1 Timothy 1:12, NKJV.

After all these years, I am now in a place where I serve as overseer of a number of churches. One of the joys of serving as overseer is working with churches in the selection and ordination of young Ministers. Just several weeks ago, I had the opportunity of being at Zion Mennonite in Pryor, Oklahoma, where I had the privilege of helping to License two young men as associate pastors. I have been seeing young men answer the call of God on their life, and I believe the Church of Jesus Christ will continue to grow and flourish with the faith of young men and women God is calling.

The apostle Paul told young protégé Timothy the following in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also". I believe God is calling a new generation of pastors, evangelists and teachers to equip the body of Christ. By God's grace I want to be an encouragement to these younger ministers sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! Perhaps you're reading this and have felt God may be calling you into some type of ministry. Reach out to your pastor or talk to me, I'd love to hear from you!

Philip Stutzman

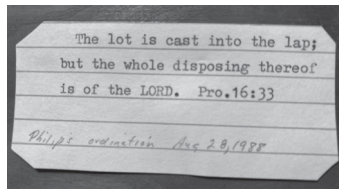


Luke Swift and Brian Miller, two of the young men recently licensed

My brother David

Some of you may have seen me posting videos of my brother David on Facebook and Instagram. Some of you may not know that he fell about three years ago and injured his spinal cord, rendering him a quadriplegic. He has some movement in his arms and legs, but he's confined to a wheelchair and needs total care. He is a resident at Country Club Rehabilitation Campus in Dover, Ohio. They asked him to be the resident campus pastor and he preaches every Sunday. His wife Sara Mae is so helpful in helping him prepare his sermon every week. He has been a pastor for many years and traveled extensively in ministry.

I have felt the Holy Spirit speaking to me about helping my brother speak to the world. So I try to visit him weekly and do video clips of him sharing stories from his years of ministry. I've gotten a lot of feedback this year since I've been posting these videos. It's a way for me to help my brother David continue in ministry he is so passionate about. Pray for David as you think about him and if you have access to watching the video clips on Facebook or Instagram please take advantage of it! We are laborers together in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!



The "lot" used in Philip Stutzman's ordination process.

Upcoming Schedule

We have weekly meetings at Operation 6:12 which is a drug, alcohol and addiction recovery program for men and women. I am part of a team that meets every Wednesday night doing a worship service for them.

We also have revival meetings, coming up at a church in Kentucky. And an overseer visit with another church in Indiana. Please remember us in prayer and thank you for your prayers and financial support! We couldn't do what we do without your support. God bless you richly.



Philip and David Stutzman



We have a Souls4Him page on FB or you can follow me on FB and Instagram under Philip Stutzman. Many have told me how they follow me as a "silent" follower and can keep up with what we are doing.

WHO WE ARE

Philip Stutzman Souls4Him Ministries invites people to authentic relationship in Jesus Christ. We do this through Evangelistic Meetings, Revival Meetings in churches, prisons and community meetings, stateside and overseas. Having a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status makes all gifts tax deductible.