

# Walking into Nowhere the High Price of Disobedience



C. S. Lewis said, “To walk out of God’s will is to walk into nowhere”. To make claim to being a Christian of faith while being disobedient to God is a contradiction in terms.

Jesus said, ““Whoever loves me will keep my word...” (from John 14:23) James in his epistle tells us “*Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.*” (James 1:22-25) The fact is, “faith” and “obedience” are two sides of the same coin. God approves only of a faith that leads to obedience. True faith flows out of obedience.

The Holy Scripture portrays stunning examples of men who were called and anointed by God, often did the will of God, but suffered dire consequences as they fell into the pit of disobedience. King Saul was a man like that. When chosen by God to be the King that would lead the people of God, he was humbled and yielding. God sent his prophet Samuel to anoint Saul with oil. Samuel was a counsel and prophet with the wisdom to lead Saul in upright ways. But Saul’s character eventually revealed deep flaws that were rooted in pride, jealousy, and selfish ambition.

The story unfolds in I Samuel 15. There came a day when Saul was given an assignment from God through the word of the prophet Samuel. Saul was told to attack

the pagan enemy city of Amalek. The order was to destroy the enemy completely and totally. He was told to take no booty, possession, or wealth of any kind. Annihilate it all! Saul sent a powerful army of 210,000 soldiers and won a swift victory. But, he spared the enemy, King Agag, and confiscated the best of the booty----a direct violation, an act of out and out disobedience. Saul had seriously miscalculated the consequences of disobedience just as one can do today if one decides to compromise the Word and play games with God. If your eye offends you, pluck it out. Don’t be deceived into thinking you can have one foot in the Kingdom of God and the other in the devil’s camp.

Saul was so proud of himself for winning the victory. He actually set up a memorial to himself on Mt. Carmel. When God sent Samuel to question his actions, Saul seeks to justify his disobedience by saying that he just intended to offer the booty to God as a sacrifice. In other words, “God told me to do it one way, but I had an even better idea!” The prophet Samuel’s reply is a classic revelation for all generations: Samuel said: “*Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to the LORD’s command? Obedience is better than sacrifice, to listen, better than the fat of rams. For a sin of divination is rebellion, and arrogance, the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, the LORD in turn has rejected you as king.*” (1 Sam. 15:22-23) Consider

**The  
EVOCATION**

SEPT/OCT

2021

the comparison that God makes. This act of disobedience was akin to rebellion against God and on par with the abominable practice of occultism. The arrogance of Saul in doing his own thing was equivalent to worshiping the false gods of the enemy that God had told him to destroy. Saul had mistakenly equated his “grandiose accomplishments” with something that would please God. It is quite understandable that Saul didn’t see any good reason to do exactly what God said. But if one waits for God to give a reason for doing something he commands, one will most likely hinder any blessing attached to the command. After all, according to human logic, it seemed a waste of good resources. How easily Saul walked into the dark arena of “nowhere”. God is not pleased with “humanistic performance” no matter how it is dressed up.

**“OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE SACRIFICE PLEASING TO HIM”!**

Saul took it upon himself to fix things, to make things better. He seized the enemy, King Agag, whom he had spared and cut him into pieces before the Lord. He went through the motions of asking forgiveness. But, the damage had been done. He had not obeyed the Lord. He was destined to lose his kingship. His family would perish. The kingdom would be handed over to another man, a man after God’s own heart---his name was David.

Saul did not have the heart to seek God unrelentlessly. The termination of his earthly journey is a picture of physical and spiritual tragedy. He just never really “got it”! We refer to I Samuel 28: After Samuel’s death, Saul is threatened by the Philistines. Although Saul had driven all of the practitioners of occultism out of the land, he

seeks divine help through a witch. He chose to rely on satanic forces rather than God. Subsequently, he goes into battle. The 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter of I Chronicles vividly describes his demise. He is struck by an arrow, wounded and commits suicide. *“When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell upon his sword and died. Thus Saul, and his three sons, his whole house, died together (I Chron. 10: 5-6)”*. Then the end, *“On the following day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. They stripped him, and took his head and his armor; these they sent throughout the land of the Philistines to bring the good news to their idols and to the people. They put his armor in the temple of their gods, but his skull they impaled at the temple of Dagon. (Vs. 8-10).”*

Why did this happen? *“Thus Saul died because of his treason against the LORD in disobeying his word, and also because he had sought counsel from a ghost, rather than from the LORD. Therefore the LORD took his life, and turned his kingdom over to David, the son of Jesse. (vs. 13).*

Thus, we see the good, the bad and the ugly. King Saul was truly appointed and anointed by God. Like every other person, he had choices to make. Like the rest of the human race, he could choose to obey or disobey the Lord. The consequences would follow: blessing or curse, life or death. His life could have glorified God. Rather his head is impaled in the temple of the pagan deity Dagon. Disobedience was his path to “nowhere”.

## We Made it Back to Tanzania



*Some of our team members with Bishop Mapunda—left to right: Sr. Mary Justine, DLJC, Beth Kraner, Jean Marie & Tom, John Mathe, Merito Kabassa, Bohdan Novak, Bishop Mapunda, Beth Molbert, Patricia Welther, Sebastian Chisunga, Hyacita Selvyna, Julius Ishengoma*

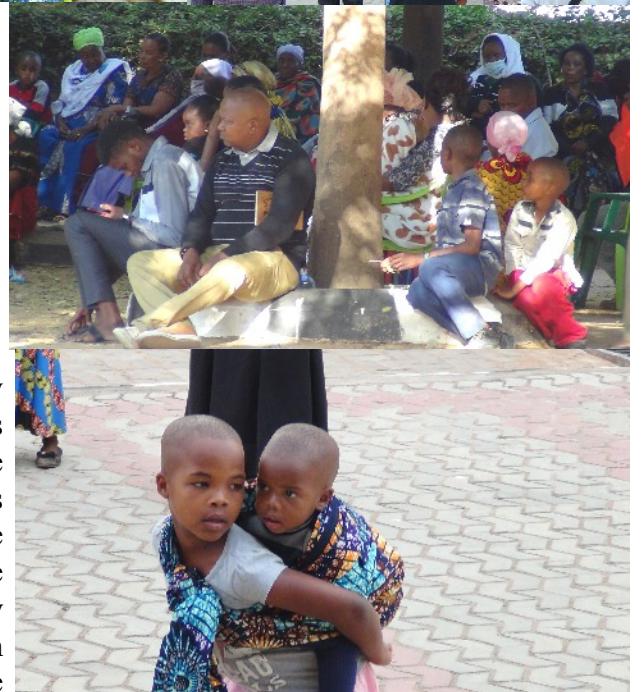
By God’s grace and with the essential support of the many who were praying, we were able to carry out our Renewal Ministries July, 2021 Mission to Tanzania. The obstacles and the travel were grueling. However, this mission to the beautiful people of this East African country seemed particularly exciting and fruitful. This marked our twenty-first outreach to Tanzania. Our team was made up of seven people from the USA and one from Slovakia. Upon arrival in Singida we were joined by over a dozen talented Tanzanian brothers and sisters—teachers, singers, musicians, dancers, ushers, local leaders, and Fr. Festus from the Arusha Diocese. This was our first visit to the Diocese of Singida and it was at the invitation of Bishop Edward Mapunda.

After the long, long flight to Dar es Salaam, we boarded our rented minibus and made the 16 hour journey to the interior to begin our outdoor rallies, workshops, and special outreaches.



### **The Many Faces of Worship**

In addition to our morning workshops on Healing & Deliverance, Young Adults, Sister's Retreat, and Pro-Life and Natural Family Planning, the daily afternoon outdoor rallies bring people from far and wide. The rallies begin at 2:00 PM and close as the sun is setting. Each day the attendance increases as word spreads about how the Holy Spirit is moving. Following the two messages shared in the afternoon, we move into prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to move in power. Amazing things occur as many repent of involvement in animist activities and commit their lives to Jesus. People, young and old participate dynamically in the worship and praise time with lots of singing and dancing. Adults and children sit attentively while opening their Bibles while copiously taking notes they will share with others. Toward the ending of the last, day up to two thousand are present. On one day 200 made a commitment of their lives to Jesus. Some of our team members prayed with Muslims. One local Imam attended the Pro-life workshop.



*Above: Jean Marie shares the fetal models with Bishop Mapunda. The models are made according to exact scientific size and weight and accurately depict the baby at each monthly stage of development in the womb of the mother. We leave a set of the models with local leaders who will carry on with the teaching to others. The Bishop was very eager for his flock to receive this teaching.*

## Thoughts from Jean Marie

A couple of years ago when I was visiting my friend, Sue, in Arizona, she spoke of how the Lord had placed in her a strong desire to do something for the children in Africa. She had just lost her husband and was trying to figure out all the daily things he had always taken care of for her. It was a very sad and difficult time for her and yet she still quieted herself in communion with the Lord to hear what He wanted to say to her rather than just all the questions and things she wanted from Him. And in that time of surrendering herself, He asked her to give a generous financial gift to the children in Singida. As she handed me the check, I struggled to receive it. She didn't know yet if the amount would cause her hardship or not. All she knew is this is what the Lord had asked her to do and she trusted Him. Because of Covid, we didn't go to Singida that summer and didn't know if ever we would get there. So, I tried to give her the money back. She said no. The Lord had wanted it for those children and He will get it to them. And He did!



**Tom & Jean Marie  
Edwards**



## Itinerary

We are hoping to make a mission journey to Eastern Europe this Fall. Please pray that the doors will open and the Lord Jesus will make a way. We are also seeking the Lord's direction in other overseas outreaches.

Sept. 8, Jacksonville, FL—Legatus Meeting

Sept. 29-Oct. 1—Ann Arbor, MI—Renewal Ministries Country Coordinator Meeting



## Join us for Monday night Prayer Group

Our Monday night prayer group has been meeting for over 40 years. After a short summer break we are set to resume meetings on Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.—7:00 PM EST. We now gather live in person at the St. Augustine House of Prayer, 30 Ocean Ave., St. Augustine, FL (across from the Mission of Nombre de Dios). We also invite anyone to join from across the globe via ZOOM. Participate on your personal device.

HOW DO YOU JOIN VIA ZOOM. Go to <https://zoom.us/> and sign up (it's free). Let us know if you want to join the meetings. Send your email request to [goyetomedwards@att.net](mailto:goyetomedwards@att.net)— You will then receive a link each week to click a before meeting time. After you are admitted to the meeting, just click on the little icons on your screen for camera and microphone.

## Your Support is Vital

**Your support is so important to sustaining this ministry. If at all possible, please prayerfully consider a financial gift this month. You may use the enclosed envelope or see our PayPal link on our web sites which allows use of most major credit cards. For all donations, we are very grateful. Send along your prayer request. We pray for them daily.**

**Tom Edwards Evangelistic Assoc., Inc., P. O. Box 2113, St. Augustine, FL 32085**

**Tel: (904) 471-8672 Email: [goyetomedwards@att.net](mailto:goyetomedwards@att.net), [www.catholic evangelization.homestead.com](http://www.catholic evangelization.homestead.com)**

**or <https://goyetomedwards.wixsite.com/parishmission>.**