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*Proverbs 14:34*

FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

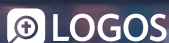
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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

# Five Definitive Characteristics of Righteous Leadership



*"The Judgment of Solomon," Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665), Louvre*

**P**roverbs 14:34 contains a sound political maxim, the simplicity of which is often overlooked: personal **righteousness** in the population—both in citizens and leaders—is the single most important commodity that any country can possess! This virtue, states Solomon, is preeminent to everything else, because

***Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.***

The writer of Proverbs, King Solomon, whom Scripture states was the wisest man to ever live, proclaims in this passage that personal **righteousness** is the most important ingredient—and should be the focus—in order to achieve the advancement of any nation. Solomon does not say that the presence of natural resources **exalts a nation**, nor does he say that it is attributable to the excellence of its education system, as important as those are, among other things. Rather, personal **righteousness** is what is the most important!

Read on, beloved.

Ralph Drollinger

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

**Governors:** Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom

**Former Cabinet Members / White House Senior Staff:** Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom

**Senate Members:** Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

**House Members:** Thursdays 8am, AG Hearing Rm., Longworth 1302, hot breakfast served



## MINISTRY UPDATE

# Tanzania Physician/ Pastor Launches CapMin Ministry for National Leaders Overlooked by Churches



Dr. Deogratias Ngoma, a pastor and medical doctor, discovered Capitol Ministries at a time when his heart was yearning to reach Tanzania's national political leaders with God's Word. As is true in many places in the world, Tanzania's political leaders have been neglected by many churches in outreach ministry, he said.

"The church has been celebrating politicians and those in public offices without investing in their spiritual life," Dr. Ngoma said. "It's high time we make disciples of Christ among political leaders, so in turn, they will not only make right decisions, but also make more disciples."

Dr. Ngoma's longing to teach the Bible to political leaders dovetails with CapMin's mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ in the political arena of the world. In 2022, he was named CapMin's ministry leader for Tanzania's national leaders. Dr. Ngoma said Capitol Ministries is

*Continued on page 4*

## Five Definitive Characteristics of Righteous Leadership

### I. INTRODUCTION

The five traits of *righteousness* that must characterize a nation's leaders are the same qualities, in fact, that serve to *exalt a nation*. The Greek word for *righteousness* (*dikaiousune*) is used 86 times in the New Testament (NT). The simplest and easiest way to remember the definition of this word is "right-way-ness." Careful observation of Proverbs 14:34 reveals a nationalistic summation of the cause-and-effect relationship between *righteousness* and *exaltation*. Great nations, great leaders, great employees, great family members are always characterized by the following definitive biblical characteristics of *righteousness*—that's what makes them great! It should be noted at the outset that there are many who practice the following five characteristics of biblical *righteousness*, borrowing from the heavenly Author of such, but yet giving no attribution to their source.

In an individual sense, when a leader lives with God's character, he places himself in a position to be blessed by God, whereas unrighteous leaders are never in a place or position where God can extend them His divine favor in as gracious a proportion.

Per Proverbs 14:34, it follows that a nation's proportion of blessing is directly related and tantamount to the sum total of the *righteousness* quotient of its individual leaders. It is only when a nation is blessed with high-principled individuals that it places itself in a position to gain God's bestowal of blessing and favor, of overall well-being.

**The exaltation of a nation  
is intrinsically intertwined  
with the righteousness  
of its leaders.**

Given this cut-to-the-chase analysis of a nation's greatest need, the question quickly becomes one of how *righteousness* is best formed in the life of leaders. Therefore, as we will see, the critical, pre-eminent duty of all believers is to witness for Christ and lead others to Him; in essence it is to Christianize the citizenry. Conversion of the soul, Solomon will postulate, not moral foisting, is the only way to breed lasting, *righteous* individuals. Accordingly, in our composite nation (one composed of both church and state but institutionally separated), the state is dependent on believers to diligently evangelize and disciple the unregenerate citizenry of the state. It also follows that the degree to which believers are faithful evangelizers and disciplers is directly proportional to the health of the state. Proverbs 11:10–11, 28:12, and 29:2 serve to respectively underscore this critically important relationship:

*When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.*

*When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.*

*When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan.*

As previously evidenced in Proverbs 14:34 and the above passages, one can summarily conclude the following:

**The book of Proverbs  
repeatedly screams  
about the relationship**





between the existence  
of righteous govern-  
mental leaders as they  
relate to the overall  
health of a city or nation.

A small number of believers think that Christians should give no pause for the state; rather they should only be about focusing on advancing God's Kingdom. But these passages serve—in fact they shout—about how God expects the *righteous* life of the believer, especially its *righteous* political leaders, to positively affect the cities and nations where they live and serve! The above passages are not about the heavenlies; they relate to the here and now. Given this clear and repeated cause-and-effect relationship between the existence of *righteousness* in leaders and the course a country takes, as a public servant how are you doing in terms of your spiritual growth, your maturation in Christ, your *righteousness* quotient?

## II. THE GERMINATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The necessity of evangelism by the people of God so as to birth and develop *righteous* individuals in order to achieve an ongoing healthy, *exalted* nation is explicitly articulated in Proverbs 11:30:

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
and he who is wise wins souls.*

In beautifully imaging Solomonian poetry, the picture of *a tree of life*, serves to illustrate the far-reaching effects of *the fruit of the righteous*. This *fruit* generally includes his influence, productivity, instruction, and example. But notice specifically what is added to the definition of *fruit* in this passage: evangelism, or the *winning of souls*. Herein is yet

another exclamatory underscoring of the integral relationship between the importance of evangelism, which results in the indwelling Holy Spirit, whom elsewhere in Scripture is deemed the Helper, and the outward manifestations of such in culture.

To illustrate the needed priority and fostering of the spiritual dimension in the life of the citizen and the way in which that plays out in culture, note John 4, when Jesus visited the woman at the well. He was no doubt very thirsty and in need of water, but He set aside His personal desires to win the woman to salvation. He momentarily placed aside His own personal needs in order to achieve a much higher priority: the conversion of her soul, the beginning of *righteous* living! Her soul was the most important thing on His mind. The passage reveals that Jesus was most concerned for her personal salvation. In John 8, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus and demanded she be stoned. But when Jesus said, *“He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her,”* the men walked away one by one. By telling the woman, *“Go and sin no more,”* Jesus indicated there were to be cultural consequences to her conversion: she would turn her back on adultery which threatens the moral fabric of any society, more specifically the nuclear family, the very foundation of any and all nations. If only we had more believers in our various seats of government who held to such clear priorities of winning other's souls over and above their career objectives. Solomon says that to prioritize this is *wise*. It is *wise* because it so impacts and affects the life and the culture! May we *“seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness”* (Matthew 6:33) not only in our own lives, but in the lives of others. To do so is to

VERSE OF THE WEEK



### Proverbs 14:34

*Righteousness exalts a  
nation, but sin is a  
disgrace to any people.*



Personal *righteousness*  
in the population—both  
citizens and leaders—is  
the single most import  
commodity that any  
country can possess!





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an answer to his prayers, and Ralph and Danielle Drollinger said he is the answer to one of their prayers. Ralph, a world-class mountaineer, and Danielle, who also climbs, raised prayers after visiting northeast Tanzania.

“When Danielle and I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro six years ago, we had six Tanzanian guides who were all believers,” Ralph said. “Every evening we would pray that God would raise up a ministry leader for their nation’s Capitol! Dr. Ngoma is a great answer to our prayers!”

Dr. Ngoma successfully completed the required ministry leader training at CapMin’s Recruiting and Training Conference in Cape Town South Africa last year where he met with many CapMin leaders. Among them was Brian Hanson, international director. “Dr. Ngoma is a wonderful addition to Capitol Ministries,” Pastor Hanson said. “Both he and his wife, Jacqueline are open to the Lord’s leading. They are looking for God to open doors that they boldly walk through. They are both prayer warriors and have the most humble and gentle spirits, you just want to spend days with them.”

Dr. Ngoma is the founder and overseer of Jesus Cares Churches in Tanzania, the ministry he founded under God’s grace in 2017. He also works in public health, serving as a director for Helen Keller International. Dr. Ngoma earned a master’s degree in public health and a bachelor’s degree in Bible and Theology. Dr. Ngoma has sensed a call to teach God’s Word to political leaders so that they may impact communities in all aspects of life. “For a nation to flourish, the worldviews of key decision makers in public offices should mirror God’s wisdom as revealed in the Scriptures,” he said. “The opportunity to work with Capitol Ministries has come at the right time and is an answer to prayers.”

create an evergreen *tree of life* in any given nation.

States Charles Bridges in regard to the absence of soul winning: “The Christian who neglects his brother’s salvation, fearfully hazards [weakens] his own. He is gone back to his native selfishness, if he does not exhibit that ‘love and kindness of God that has appeared unto men’ ... How poor is the mitre (head dressing) or the crown; how debasing the wisdom of the philosopher, the scholar, or the statesman, compared with this wisdom!”<sup>1</sup> The most important and wisest use of one’s time and resources in the capital is that of winning the lost: creating by the imputation of the Holy Spirit men and women who will *hunger and thirst after righteousness* their whole lives (cf. Matthew 5:6)! Summarily,

**It is the winning of souls  
that fosters righteousness  
in a nation.**

How misguided and uninformed is the thinking of those who do not prioritize evangelism and discipleship, God’s means of creating *righteous* individuals! Rarely is that formula postulated as the solution to America’s downward trajectory that is often defined through a political lens only. Have we not come to grips with the profundity of these passages? Do we just not believe them? Perhaps this is attributable to the famine of biblical literacy in the Capitol and the nation? If indeed it is *righteousness* that *exalts a nation*, is not the priority of evangelism the key to a great country more so than any other thing we might spend our time trying to accomplish? What could be a more important use of our time than soul winning?

Stemming from the conversion of the soul and regeneration in Christ, Solo-

mon states that the five following characteristics of *righteous* leadership can take root and have long lasting effects; when you unpack the book of Proverbs relative to this subject, Solomon is saying that it is these following definitive aspects of *righteousness* that serve to *exalt a nation*.

### III. FIVE DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF RIGHTEOUS LEADERSHIP

How do you specifically define what *righteousness* looks like—what are characteristic manifestations of its presence in a statesman? What follows are all the passages from Proverbs that have to do with *righteousness* and define what *righteous* leadership should look like. In order to *exalt a nation* a leader must be the following.

#### A. TO BE RIGHTEOUS MEANS YOU MUST KNOW YOUR CALLING

In Proverbs 16:12 Solomon provides insights to his son, Rehoboam, the next leader of Israel, as to what it is that will *establish* or secure his reign, his position of leadership:

*It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts, for a throne is established on righteousness.*

In the heart of a public servant there must be a regard for others whom he serves as being more important than himself (cf. Philippians 2:3 ff.). God requires that leaders whom He appoints to govern a country, His ordained institution of the state (cf. Romans 13:1), be a blessing to the people they serve—benefactors to the world in which they live. Ecclesiastes 8:9 specifically speaks to the selflessness a leader must possess





in his job: *A man has exercised authority over another to his own hurt.* This is a powerful way of putting it: a leader is to be so selfless that it *hurts* him! It is only from this biblical theology, the ensuing knowledge of this biblical theology, his understanding of this biblical theology, and his submission to this biblical theology, that one can possibly possess the realization that God has called him to office to serve in this way! Only then can selfish motives possibly be eradicated and replaced by the *righteous* motives of selfless service commanded in Scripture!

If a leader is secure and settled in the fact that it is God who called him—Psalm 75:4–7 insightfully and profoundly states that in His sovereignty *He puts down one and exalts another*, then and only then is there no temptation to engineer your destiny; then and only then is there no temptation to perform the *wicked acts* often associated with self-preservation. Be sure of this:

Abominable wicked  
acts grow in the soil of  
self-preservation;  
whereas the soil of  
“God placed me here”  
nurtures a totally different  
variety of leader.

The DNA of the later variety is this: “It is God who put me here for the betterment of others; I understand my calling and I am secure in it.” In essence then, believing that “it is God who placed me here” is the belief that leads to *a throne established on righteousness*! If you want to *establish* yourself in office then live securely according to your theology, your calling! It follows that an officeholder who is self-centered will become less *established* due to his ensuing and

inevitable unrighteousness. A recent illustration of this is a past American president who promised the nation’s citizens that they could keep their own doctor and coverage under his new nationwide insurance plan. As it turned out, that was not the case. As a result of his *unrighteous* behavior, his approval ratings dropped, meaning he became less *established* in office.

The relationship between *righteousness* and being *established* parallels the previously seen relationship between *righteousness* and *exaltation*: *righteous* character and behavior lead to being *established* and being *exalted* both individually and in a national sense. In summary, *righteous* behavior stems from one’s calling in Christ, knowing He appointed you to office, whereas behaving *wickedly* stems from thinking one is self-appointed and therefore must be self-preserving.

#### B. TO BE RIGHTEOUS MEANS YOU MUST BE JUST

A major responsibility of civil government is *the punishment of evildoers* (1 Peter 2:13–14). Within that realm of responsibility is the dispatch of just treatment through due process. A major responsibility of every elected official then is to make sure the city, county, state, or nation has an excellent judicial system, especially God-fearing *righteous* judges. States Proverbs 20:8 in this regard:

*A king who sits on the throne of justice  
disperses all evil with his eyes.*

From the time of Moses, the leaders of Israel were judges which also meant they were chief executives (and often prophets). Then, when kings replaced the judges, Israel’s kings would decree *jus-*

John Hancock

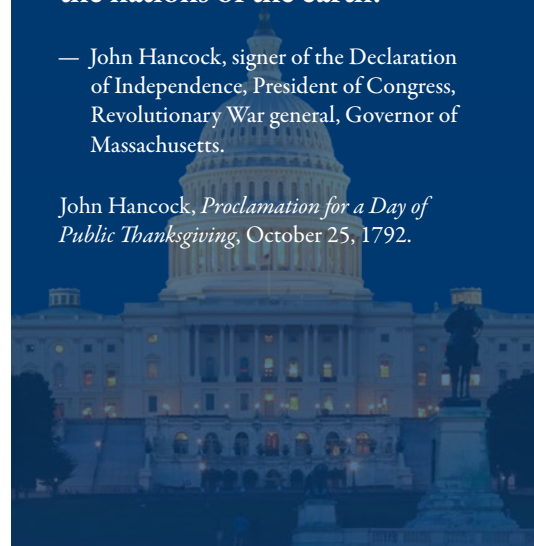


John Hancock called on the State of Massachusetts to pray

“That the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be established in peace and righteousness among all the nations of the earth.”

— John Hancock, signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of Congress, Revolutionary War general, Governor of Massachusetts.

John Hancock, *Proclamation for a Day of Public Thanksgiving*, October 25, 1792.





Patrick Henry



“Righteousness alone can exalt [America] as a nation ... Whoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself, and encourage it in others.”

— Patrick Henry, Revolutionary War general, legislator, “The Voice of Liberty,” ratifier of the U.S. Constitution, Governor of Virginia.

Patrick Henry, *Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence and Speeches*, William Wirt Henry, editor (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1891), Vol. II, 632, addendum to his resolutions against the Stamp Act, May 29, 1765.

*tice* from their throne. They were to rule in fear of God. So it should be today in our lawmaking, enforcement, and adjudication. Proverbs 24:23–25 says in this regard:

*These also are sayings of the wise. To show partiality in judgment is not good. He who says to the wicked, ‘You are righteous,’ peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him; but to those who rebuke the wicked will be delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.*

So great should be the judicial *righteousness* of the aforementioned that they rule with total social and economic impartiality. Proverbs 31:8–9 states:

*Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.*

It is only through *righteous* lawmakers, enforcers, and courts that a state can have any semblance of *justice*. *Judging righteously* stems from *righteous* leaders for sure. But how are those *righteous* leaders created, raised, and groomed?

### How does the state gain noble leaders?

In God’s design they are to be manufactured (at the risk of sounding impersonal, I like the connotations of that word) by the institution of the church: God-fearing individuals are created, raised, and groomed by the discipleship priorities of believers in a composite nation wherein exist the co-abiding institutions of church and state. *Wise* is the state that upholds religious freedom

so as to provide the church ease in manufacturing what it most desperately requires: the next generation of *righteous* state leaders who uphold *justice*. In summary, the second of the five characteristics of *righteousness* is *justice*. Are you *just*? Such *exalts a nation*.

### C. TO BE RIGHTEOUS MEANS YOU MUST BE DISCERNING

If *righteousness exalts a nation*, then it follows that good discernment by a public servant—to associate with people of integrity—is a sure path to national prosperity. To do otherwise is to be unduly, continually tempted by evil. “*Bad company corrupts good morals*” candidly states Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:33. Like begets like.

Too often righteous elected officials associate with or hire the wrong kind of people who do not represent their values.

Don’t let that be the case with you. Your staff must represent your values in order to be effective in the long run. In Proverbs 25:5, Solomon addresses his son in regard to this issue:

*Take away the wicked before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.*

One specific form of *wickedness before the king* is highlighted several chapters later by Solomon: personal bribery. Bribery can undermine the best of legal constructs. Samuel’s sons took bribes and it ruined Israel. States Solomon in this regard in Proverbs 29:4:



*The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it.*

The *wise* statesman associates with and hires people who represent his or her godly character. On the other hand, embracing *wicked* people will ruin your office; you are playing with fire! Far from *establishing* you, they will harm you, misrepresent you, and may even corrupt you! In summary, the third of the five characteristics of *righteousness* is one's ability to be discerning. Are you discerning? Such *exalts a nation*.

#### D. TO BE RIGHTEOUS MEANS YOU MUST HAVE CONVICTIONS

Whereas convictions are more than having knowledge of scriptural truths, they are nothing less. It takes courage to implement biblical knowledge; but it is only upon implementation that knowledge can become a conviction. Proverbs 25:26 says:

*Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.*

**To lack conviction as a believer is often an indication of biblical illiteracy if not a lack of courage.**

For a Christian elected official to fall down from his principles—to compromise biblical absolutes—in his policies or interactions with others grievously tarnishes his testimony and, I might add, the corporate testimony of the body of Christ. In summary, the fourth of the five characteristics of *righteousness* is

conviction. Are you a leader of conviction? Such *exalts a nation*.

#### E. TO BE RIGHTEOUS MEANS YOU MUST BE PRAYERFUL

The last of the five characteristics of *righteousness* found in Proverbs is that of being *prayerful*. Note Proverbs 15:8–9 in this regard:

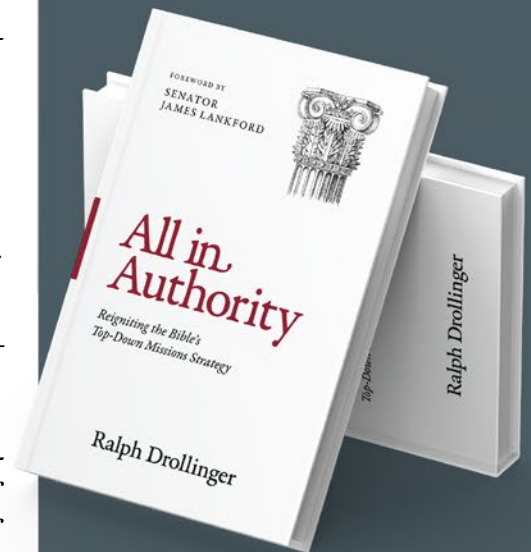
*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but He loves one who pursues righteousness.*

In these two back-to-back Proverbs of parallelism, *prayer* is equated with *righteousness* (the second stanzas of both passages). What every country most needs are men and women beseeching God's guidance in their personal and state affairs. Furthermore, here is something very important to understand about this:

**Scripture tells us that God only hears the prayers of leaders and citizens who are upright and righteous from His perspective, meaning they have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Scripture is clear here. For those who are at odds with God, who passively or actively reject the Son of God, their prayers, beyond the *prayer* of repentance, go unheard. Proverbs 15:29 is clear in this regard:

*The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.*



NOW AVAILABLE

The book of Acts records how a small band of men—the apostles—in very short order *turned the world upside down* (Acts 17:6, KJV) during the first century in which they lived. This small team of uneducated, common men were not elite leaders, so how were they able to saturate the world with the gospel—changing lives, changing culture, and eventually changing the Roman Empire?

Scripture provides the answer: not only did they fulfill the Great Commission one soul at a time through a ministry of geometric evangelism and discipleship, but they succeeded *by concentrating on and impacting a particular element of society, specifically kings and all who are in authority* (1 Timothy 2:1–4).

*All in Authority: Reigniting the Bible's Top-Down Missions Strategy* provides the biblical exegesis for this missional strategy that is found in both the Old and New Testaments. The book provides a clarion call for the Church to make political public servants a priority mission field in our nation today. Request your complimentary copy at [capmin.org](http://capmin.org).



In summary, the fifth of the five characteristics of *righteousness* is *prayerfulness*. Are you *prayerful*? Such *exalts a nation*.

## IV. CONCLUSION

All would agree that characteristics of *righteousness* are necessary to the dispatch of good civil government, but how you produce such individuals to lead in the state is more difficult than the simple analysis of the need. The only way to produce these virtues in leaders is through the evangelism and discipleship efforts of believers in the lives of other individuals. As the discipleship, priorities, responsibilities, and manifestations of the church go, so goes the state. Put another way, the state reflects the collective *righteousness* of its people, much more than it is the cause of it. Put still another way, the heralders of God's truth are critically important to the success of the public servant and the future of the country; the expositor/instructor of God's precepts is the seminal incubator of a country's present and future culture. In Hosea 4:6, God said to his Bible teachers of the time:

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

This Old Testament passage serves to reveal the God-intended relationship between the church and the state today. For the church to fail to teach God's precepts to the leaders of the state is a sore subject in the eyes of God. It is incumbent on the church to teach God's precepts and manufacture *righteous* leaders in and for the state. The state itself is dependent on the church to do this for her.

The insight and emphasis of Proverbs regarding the health of a state clearly reveals the need for the continual development of *righteous* leadership. Definitively, a Solomonic spectral analysis of *righteousness* reveals at least five beautiful colors: calling, *justice*, discernment, conviction, and prayerfulness. To what degree does each of these wonderful virtues shine forth in and from your life? Does your life reveal these characteristics? To the degree it does, you are adding to the *exaltation of our nation*.

1. Charles Bridges, *A Commentary on Proverbs*, New York/Pittsburgh: R. Carter, 1847, 130, (<https://biblicalelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Bridges-Proverbs.pdf>).

### ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES

#### UNITED STATES

Albany New York  
Annapolis Maryland  
Atlanta Georgia  
Augusta Maine  
Austin Texas  
Bismarck North Dakota  
Boise Idaho  
Boston Massachusetts  
Denver Colorado  
Dover Delaware  
Carson City Nevada  
Charleston West Virginia  
Cheyenne Wyoming  
Columbia South Carolina  
Columbus Ohio  
Concord New Hampshire  
Des Moines Iowa  
Hartford Connecticut  
Harrisburg Pennsylvania  
Helena Montana  
Honolulu Hawaii  
Jefferson City Missouri  
Juneau Alaska  
Lansing Michigan  
Lincoln Nebraska  
Little Rock Arkansas  
Madison Wisconsin  
Montgomery Alabama  
Montpelier Vermont  
Nashville Tennessee  
Oklahoma City Oklahoma  
Olympia Washington  
Phoenix Arizona  
Providence Rhode Island  
Raleigh North Carolina  
Richmond Virginia  
Sacramento California  
Salem Oregon  
Santa Fe New Mexico  
Springfield Illinois  
Topeka Kansas  
Trenton New Jersey

#### INTERNATIONAL

Brussels Belgium  
Porto Novo Benin  
Brasilia Brazil  
Ouagadougou Burkina Faso  
Gitega Burundi  
Yaounde Cameroon  
Bangui Central African Republic  
San Jose Costa Rica  
Yamoussoukro Cote d'Ivoire  
Kinshasa Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Quito Ecuador  
Malabo Equatorial Guinea  
Mbabane Eswatini  
Addis Ababa Ethiopia  
Brussels European Parliament  
Suva Fiji  
Libreville Gabon  
Accra Ghana  
Conakry Guinea  
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Lilongwe Malawi  
Mexico City Mexico  
Chisinau Moldova  
Maputo Mozambique  
Nauru  
Abuja Nigeria  
Port Moresby Papua New Guinea  
Brazzaville Republic of the Congo  
Freetown Sierra Leone  
Honiara Solomon Islands  
Pretoria South Africa  
Dodoma Tanzania  
Nuku'alofa Tonga  
Kyiv Ukraine  
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Port Vila Vanuatu  
Lusaka Zambia  
Harare Zimbabwe



*Making Disciples  
of Jesus Christ  
in the Political Arena  
Throughout the World*



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