



February 2018

Dear Ministry Partner,

*Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.  
When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. - Isaiah 52:8*

### **BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION AND SOUND THE ALARM**

I am in Israel this week working with our VOICE OF HOPE on-air team. We have been filming a short video to introduce the impact of the VOICE OF HOPE radio station as an Israel and Middle East Initiative. The Church of God denomination is rallying strong prayer support for the Voice of Hope among their 49,000 churches worldwide. This is a huge blessing that will bring strength to our mission in support of persecuted Christians of the Middle East and also to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel for the very first time. The Church of God was birthed out of the Azusa Street Revival over one hundred years ago. Their passion for preparing the Church for the return of the Lord Jesus and their focus on world evangelism is a hallmark.



The shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Earlier in the week I was standing in a local Galilee shop when suddenly there came a most arresting sound! It was like someone pulled the fire alarm! My whole being was responding involuntarily to this sound and it had my full attention! Marc Griffith, our videographer had found the large bin of Shofar's offered for sale. He had reached in for the one that looked most interesting to him and put it to his lips and blew it like an experienced trumpeter! Everyone stopped what they were doing and waited for the alarm to stop.

The shofar is not really a musical instrument. It is a serious communication tool. Think of it as a bugle, designed to communicate to large groups of people. Joel 2:1 says, **Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand.** In the Jewish tradition the Shofar is sounded annually on the Feast of Trumpets as a wake up call to God's people to be ready for His coming. What an incredible day that will be! Can you imagine the moment of His appearing? Corinthians says *...in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised, and we will be changed and transformed to spend eternity with Jesus.*



Our **VOICE OF HOPE – AFRICA** on-air team is ministering to millions and sharing God’s plan of salvation everyday from our large shortwave radio station in Zambia. **Chela Silwamba** is our Board Chairman and gives leadership to our vision along with **Francis Musonda**, Director of Engineering, **Richard and Velda Horner**, Senior Training Engineer. Please lift up our on-air presenters Rev. Joyce Mwanza, Lombe Machilika, and Twataizya Silwamba as they pray for the sick, and disciple new believers and challenge Christians to share their faith. Islam is aggressively expanding in Africa and the Voice of Hope is vital to strengthening the Christians and sharing God’s love with Muslims.



## ENGAGED IN THE ASSIGNMENT

When Jesus returns for His Church will He find us ready engaged in the “assignment” He has given to us? Will we be at our *specific assigned posts*? So many today in the Church seem confused, uninterested, distracted, partially ready, dissatisfied, discouraged and even passion-less about this time. There is no urgency to “the call”, no passion for their God-given work, and a lack of certainty about *what* they need to be doing. Some are even confused about why they *should be* doing it. We are to be prepped and as ready as we possibly can be for that hour, that day and most certainly for that momentous instant when our Bridegroom returns!

One of the words we love from the opening Scripture from Isaiah is it says, “*together they shout for joy*” If the “*watchman*”, which we surely are, *is in his or her place on the wall*, it’s a promise, “*When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.*”

Are you standing up? Are you watching? Are you listening? We so deeply appreciate your enthusiasm in the work whether that comes in the form of prayer, communication, financial help, financial investment for the future and/or in addition to sharing about our work with other interested “*watchmen*” on the wall, who like you and me look forward to the day of His coming.

We are well aware we are in a battle, my friends, we are in the final “*days*” of battle for the hearts and minds of people who are gripped by false doctrine, bound in “*religious*” shackles or have no clue about what their tomorrow will hold. Please stand with us, our “*on-air ministers/presenters*” and with our program partners that the Holy Spirit would work powerfully through each of them to bring in the end-time harvest of millions who will follow Jesus!

Ask for it! Believe it! He has made you and I to be *fishers* of men (the lost). I Corinthians 4:8 says, “*Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?*” The clear call is to you and to me – and we likewise are sounding an alarm to ALL who will hear that *clear call* and respond.

In His service,

John and Heather Otis Tayloe  
President and Founders

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