

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FUTURE— *what lies ahead*

[~editorial series: # 4]

¿CLUELESS CHRISTIANITY?

LOVING CHRISTIANS IN A POSTCHRISTIAN SOMETHING

About the time you receive this NEEDNEWS, my new book, ¿CLUELESS CHRISTIANITY? will be available on Amazon & Kindle, and at your local bookstore. To help you decide if it is worth your time, I offer you this section—

How to Read this Book

Some time ago I read a book by Rodney Clapp, BORDER CROSSINGS: Christian trespasses on popular culture and public affairs, and, besides finding it most helpful in gaining insights on how Christians could position themselves in/near the public arena, one of his intros was most captivating. It was titled A NONLINEAR READING GUIDE TO THIS BOOK. His section was, and will remain a true classic. It gave me the idea that the same kind of guide might be helpful to you, the reader, as you search which sections to read in my book. Because, let's face it, some of you don't have enough time to read this whole thing. So, I hope this little reading guide helps.

1. If you've ever been lost on a back country road in the great prairies of North America— Kansas, Wyoming, Alberta, Manitoba, or you really think we have a problem finding our way anywhere in life, **read the first chapter— NEW MAPS-OLD ROADS:—a revised printing.**
2. If you think in global, galactic, yea verily even universal terms, and love all kinds of trivial tidbits from history, and you need to see the really B-I-G picture, **read the second chapter— A BRIEF HISTORY OF REALITY: from mystery to email.** This chapter is a truly arrogant attempt at brevity!
3. If you want to know about the changes that have overtaken North America in the last 100 years or so, and you need to understand how people think these days, go right to **Chapter three— READY FIRE AIM: the future isn't what it used to be.**
4. But if you've ever had funny thoughts about the question "What is truth?" you need to **jump to Chapter four— RETHINKING THINKING: the non-propositional nature of Truth.**
5. Tired of postmodern analysis? Here's where we make a shift. If you have found that all your knowledge about your faith has only reinforced your guilt, even though you know so much more than the next guy, hit **Chapter five— OF PASSION & PROPOSITIONS: growing a non-balanced**

faith. It's freeing to a fault, eh!

6. If you sing hymns and can't understand the words, or you really don't like your father's Buick (?), go right to **Chapter six— BEING A CHRISTIAN IN A NEW ERA: a generational thing.** Hey, there's room for everybody.
7. Ever had one of those periods where your faith in Christ felt like it hadn't kept up with the rest of your life? Kind of a kindergarten faith in a Master of Arts body? Or if you've wondered how "*that old time religion*" can be good enough for you, you'll find some help in the **seventh chapter— UP-GRADING YOUR FAITH: reformatting the expressions of faith.**
8. But really, if all you want are some ideas on how to live your Christian life in a *postChristian* society (and we are there, believe me; but you already know that), zoom over to **Chapter eight— GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE: what to do, what to do...?** This chapter is the real reason you bought this book anyway. No analysis or digging into historical stuff— just the facts, mam. Solutions, solutions.

9. So much of our credibility in society is tied to our authenticity and open-mindedness toward people who live differently than we do. It's about being non-judgmental, forgiving, and truly loving. Save yourself some more time, go right to **Chapter nine— A Christian Message for a *postChristian* Heart.**

10. Finally, I remembered some things that are in the back of my brain that need to be in the back of yours if you are going to make any sense of your Christian faith in this world. So

read **Chapter ten— AfterThoughts: my best ideas come to me in the shower.**

Now, if you actually *read* the whole book I will be most flattered. My goal throughout everything, though, is that you will start to make some sense out of being a *loving* Christian in a culture that has little patience with it. I hope you will come away after reading and think "*Yeah, I can do this.*" and start to live out your faith in Christ in more appropriate ways for *postmodern/postChristian* people to perceive.

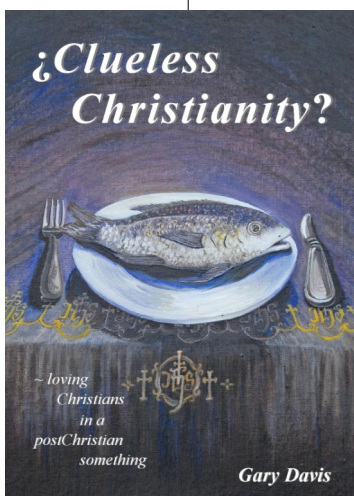
It's really been fun for me to write this book..., well, actually it's been rough too. So I do hope you'll do something with it in *your life* and in the lives of those around you.

Honor God, honor people..., make a difference,

Gary

Dr. Gary Davis, journeyman, guide & author

To read further excerpts go to www.needinc.org. or actually BUY a copy of the book online at www.Amazon.com.



SHIFT Tips

~culture clues that click

[Vol. 9, # 1]

1. We do not have all the answers: but we do have a few particularly important ones.
2. LISTEN to the question before you answer. LISTEN.
3. Watch for body language; innuendo; past influences.
4. Without TRUST the Truth has no context.
5. Clear perspective is no substitute for PRAYER.

THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED

"The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." was Mark Twain's (Samuel Clemens) response to the New York Journal when they mistakenly wrote an obituary for him. Actually, it was Clemens' cousin, James, who was sick (He later recovered).

Ere you think that NEEDinc died somewhere in the dust let me assure you that we are very alive and kicking! NEEDNEWS was discontinued for a time (6 months) as we tested alternate forms of communication— our weekly emPulse teasers, for example. But we are back on track. Preferably, again, electronically, over paper-mail. [Except for a few readers.]

NEED has pretty much made the shift from Training-Centered to Mission-Centered. Not that our training courses have ceased; they have not. They are slowly being transformed into Books with the Training materials and Reference Guides incorporated within them. Leaving a more permanent legacy, I suppose. Definitely a lot more work.

Today, NEED is more directly involved in our *post*Christian society than ever. Our mentoring, counseling, and *presence* in the Pioneer Valley Community is simply more seemly at this stage of our life. There is something to be said for staying put, even though our Mission takes us all over the world.

In one sense nothing has changed. But in another sense, we are now engaged in more *frontline* ministry than in training others to do it. Or maybe, rather, the training has changed shape; whereas once the ideas were communicated through training *courses* not the ideas are taking on the forms of books and online training. Just think of it! You could be stuck in traffic on the NJ Turnpike or the I-405 and either reading our book releases or taking an online course. Be Afraid! And don't read or txt while you drive, either.

Mentoring of the emerging generation of Christian leaders worldwide (and locally) remains in place. I personally serve as a *touchstone, counselor, mentor* for a great number of men and women in ministry who will lead their generation into new paradigms of our Christian faith; they, in turn, will *teach others also* (2 Timothy 2:2). Passing the baton: still running.

So if you've been wondering *Is NEEDinc still around?* Wonder no more! We've morphed (again) to *fit* the times and the season of our lives, but closed up shop!?! Shut yu mouth! Ministry adjusts to the seasons of our journey just as we pass through our teen years, college years, early marriage, the mayhem of children, and the regrouping to find we have lives again. Hopefully, as we've grown older our wisdom and insight have left some traceable mark of Christlikeness on those this ministry has touched. Hopefully, even you.

THE TIMES..., THEY ARE A CHANGIN' — *adjust, adapt, attack!*

It seems that with age comes less ability to adjust to hot weather. This present nation-wide heat wave has reminded me that we can't quite *go with the flow* as much as we once did. Our bodies just cannot handle the extreme temperatures. Maybe Starr and I are just mere mortals after-all. The times..., they *truly* are a changin'!

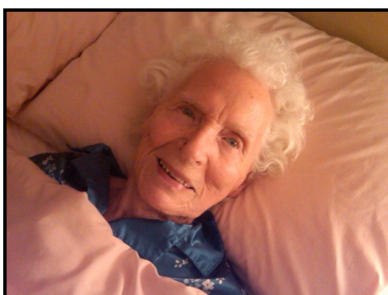
One of the biggest changes to mother's (Florence) memory. Not totally, longer capable of taking care of her. She **herst**, one mile from our home. Starr After almost 25 years of having mom as all. Three days after being there she had

Starr and I are regrouping our were unaware of how much energy and We get to sleep through the night, now; a we no longer need to search for *mother-*to go out—shopping, or for an overnight away. Frankly, this new life feels very weird to us both.

Please, do continue to lift us to God in prayer. We do not have this next season of our lives sorted out as much as we would like. ☺

Honor God, honor people, make a difference,

Gary & Starr



Mom's last night in her bed at home.
Her new bed is much more comfortable.

overtake our family in recent days is the loss of my mind you, but enough to persuade us that we were no now resides at the **Center for Extended Care at Am-**termed our experience of letting her go "traumatic." part of our household her leaving was difficult for us forgotten she had lived with us the past 25 years. lives; in a sense we are *reinventing* ourselves. We concentration *servicing* my mother had taken from us. long lost art for us. And *care* every time we want

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