



HIGH Calling

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The *High Calling* is a publication of The Francis Asbury Society to serve as a link between FAS and its constituents, building loyalty and awareness so that the teaching and experience of Christian holiness may continue to be lived and proclaimed throughout the world.

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The Constancy of Change

Bill Kierce



NO ONE LIKES to change, or so the saying goes. However, this statement is patently false. Every day, our lives demonstrate a lack of aversion to change. We change our clothes, our bedsheets, and our hairstyles (well, at least some people do). We change our locations. We change jobs or careers. We like the changes we control; the others—those that require us to change—not so much.

Almighty God is the Immutable One who never changes (Mal. 3:6), yet God has encoded the necessity of change into every facet of the universe. Change is an essential function of biological life. God stands apart from the limitations of physical biology as the Eternal and Transcendent One, yet everything in nature is designed by him to operate in life cycles. As a result, our human bodies are constantly changing. Our skin regenerates through a continuous cycle of cell turnover. Just watch what happens when we cut our hand and experience its restorative properties over days or weeks. The human liver and sometimes even bones can spontaneously regrow when damaged or lost. Plant life transitions from seed to maturity and then adapts to environmental changes over time. Organizations embrace change as essential to remaining competitive and vibrant, fostering innovation and adaptability. Without change, an organization becomes outdated and loses ground

in the marketplace. Churches change, or they die. Denominations don't last forever. The laws of physics, inherently spiritual, dictate that nothing remains the same. That which stays static becomes stagnant and breeds disease. A pond with no inflow or outflow becomes toxic. But sit beside a quiet stream, and when you get up, the stream has changed. It has moved on while you sat still.

Indeed, not all change is a good thing. Cancer is a form of malignant cellular change. Not everything that grows is healthy. Change for the sake of change has no transformative purpose. But organizations and people who resist change for the sake of normalcy will fail to transform. In a practical sense, when we do what we've always done, we will get what we've always gotten.

God's essential nature—expressed in natural and biblical revelation—is unchangeable; yet the Scriptures testify that God is always initiating new things. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isa. 43:18–19 NIV). "And He who sits on the throne," in Revelation 21:5 (NASB), says, "Behold, I am making all things new." Jesus does not claim to be making all new things, nor should we. God's new things are always consistent with God's character. Tradition is foundational to faith and life. But a person who sleeps on a foundation alone, without erecting structures upon it, is considered homeless. Biblical themes

such as regeneration and sanctification demonstrate that Jesus is ever making us new (1 Cor. 5:17; 2 Cor. 3:17–18; 1 Thess. 5:23–24). Sanctified believers are not God’s homeless children, resting solely on foundations, but living stones in a new spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:4–6).

The Francis Asbury Society is built upon the most solid of foundations, reinforced with sound theology and treasured history. As our founder, Dr. Dennis F. Kinlaw, often reminded us, “The mission of FAS is a message: Scriptural holiness expressed in holy love through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.” This will always be our message, because God reveals it in the holy text. It is as unchangeable as God is immutable. Also true is the reality that for a structure to remain livable, building materials must be continually upgraded. Viable elements of any structure decay and deteriorate over time, no longer meet code regulations, or don’t pass the eye test when compared to more recent developments in architectural style. Even when restructuring becomes necessary, the foundation remains, and, when intact, new structures may emerge successfully. And even though the new house may not fully resemble the one from a generation ago, the memories remain. Moreover, the lives birthed and transformed in the former house live on as a testament to its importance.

The past year has been a season of renovation and restoration for the Francis Asbury Society. Inertia is giving way to transformation. It’s not always easy and sometimes painful; however, vital new ministry partnerships and opportunities across the street and around the world beckon us to respond and expand our spaces. All the while, the foundation remains. Here are just a few reasons to celebrate what God is doing at FAS:

EMPOWER THE NATIONS (EtN)

Two and one-half years ago, we launched our first EtN initiative in Mexico City. That ministry has expanded to three locations, including Torreon and Irapuato. We have had the privilege of impacting the lives and ministries of at least 80 leaders in Mexico, with much more to come.

Just this past summer, our Next Generation Team led a Youth Leadership event in Saltillo that has produced very positive results.

We have also added to our FAS staff team with a dynamic young leader, Irving Marmalejo, who is translating FAS resources into Spanish for use in evangelism and leadership development throughout Latin America, through a partnership with WGM.

Another new team member, Fekadu Amanu, is our director of EtN Africa. As this article is written,

our FAS team, including Fekadu, is participating in an historic conference in Uganda, where we have worked with the Global Methodist Church to convene every GMC pastor in that country for four days of study, worship, and prayer.

In January 2025, Fekadu helped FAS organize an EtN event that brought together the leaders of virtually every evangelical denomination or network in Ethiopia for two days of conferencing and exploration of ways to partner together in a long-term relationship. One leader in Ethiopia, formerly imprisoned by the Communist regime, described the event as “the most significant gathering of evangelical leaders in the country since the Communists left in the 1990s.” The leaders we are serving in Ethiopia represent 30 million evangelical believers.

EXCITING NEW PUBLISHING, ACADEMIC, AND CONFERENCING PARTNERSHIPS

We have recently signed a contract to produce, in collaboration with the Wesley House of Studies at Baylor University, a cutting-edge new resource for the local church called *Next Level Evangelism*. This book will be utilized in multiple denominations and hundreds of local churches as a small-group or Sunday School resource.

On December 3–5, 2025, FAS is co-hosting a unique workshop event, *Preaching in the Spirit*, with the Beeson Center for Preaching and Leadership at Asbury Theological Seminary. This is the first such effort between FAS and ATS and will likely lead to future events of this kind in multiple locations.

FAS has also been asked by evangelical leaders in Latin America and Africa to produce academic courses for use in colleges and seminaries and to provide visiting professors and lecturers.

REVITALIZING EVANGELISM

Since our founding in 1983, FAS has sought to provide preaching evangelists to local churches that want to host

FAS and Titus Women Agree to Separation and Mutual Blessing

SINCE 2004, TITUS Women has functioned as a ministry of the Francis Asbury Society. In October 2025, it was agreed that Titus Women, Inc. would separate from FAS to launch its own 501c(3) ministry organization. This decision was made with much prayer and concern for the benefit of one another. FAS and Titus Women, Inc. remain committed to mutual blessing and respect. Both ministries maintain a firm commitment to the Wesleyan-Holiness message and heritage.

The primary reason for separation involves governance. As an established non-profit ministry, FAS has been legally required to maintain oversight of Titus Women in all matters related to administration. This mutual agreement of separation now provides Titus Women, Inc. the freedom to operate its own affairs without any encumbrance. The FAS Board of Directors and its President celebrate this opportunity for Titus Women, Inc. to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and flourish as a single entity.

renewal events. Regrettably, the number of churches currently hosting such events and the number of full-time preaching evangelists have diminished significantly. In early 2026, FAS will host two important events at our Ministry Center in Wilmore: a gathering of Holiness Camp Meeting presidents and a gathering of FAS-partnered evangelists. These events will seek to develop a vital strategy for revitalizing traditional approaches to itinerant preaching while also envisioning what the current iteration of itinerancy in evangelism should look like.

FAS is also partnering with several academic institutions to identify, train, and deploy a new generation of evangelists who can embed in local churches as staff members to help congregations develop methods for effectively evangelizing their local communities.

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH

In January 2026, FAS will officially launch a consulting practice to walk with local churches on an extended basis, facilitating church vitality and effective discipleship. FAS has been rightly involved in producing the best of Wesleyan-Holiness theology through highly regarded scholars and academic symposiums. It's time for us to be more intentional in helping churches put these principles into practice. Sadly, many churches in the Wesleyan tradition have forgotten how to be Wesleyan in their Christian education and discipleship approaches. FAS will make a difference on the ground by assisting congregations in moving the needle toward becoming fully transformative faith communities.

That's a lot to be excited about! Thank you, Jesus. ✝

The Oasis of His Presence

Zeke Atha



NESTLED BETWEEN THE high, arid mountains of Northern Mexico, something unfamiliar to the rough terrain was beginning to rear its head. This is not a place where much tends to happen. The air is hot and dry, threatening to suck the life out of anything daring to make its home there. In the middle of this desert, an oasis sprung forth. It wasn't the first time such refreshment had emerged. Strangely enough, it marks a perennial place of peace. Many people know to flock to the oasis from near and far, dropping everything else in their lives to get a sip of the life that is bubbling up from the ground.

This "oasis" is the annual Campamento Familiar, where all the World Gospel Mission churches in Mexico dwell together for a week of fellowship and pitch their tents (literally) in the presence of God. Some have tasted of the "waters" of this oasis for most of their lives, while others arrived not knowing what to expect. I was in the second group of people, not having a clear direction on what I was

really there for. "What in the world is this camp doing in the middle of nowhere?" I thought to myself as the missionaries' Toyota hobbled and jostled along a road made only from the dry ground.

To be an evangelical Christian in Mexico is truly like living in a spiritual desert. Only 7.6% of its population claim to be in this group. The roads to the camp not only painted a beautiful scene of mountains and valleys but also exposed the darker spiritual climate of the area. In a pattern all too reminiscent of Ancient Israel, many high places had been constructed along the roads to allow the people to worship the gods at their own convenience. These local "gods" don't have animal heads on human bodies or strange, dangling appendages. They are found in the same New Testament that the evangelical Church reads every Sunday morning.

The saints, more commonly known as *sans* or *santos*, are worshipped throughout the land. One can pray to saints for the forgiveness of sins or blessing in different areas of their life. Each village has their own patron saint, who is believed to protect and bless its inhabitants. The Catholic Church of Mexico has even fabricated the story of Our Mary of Guadalupe in order to reach more potential parishioners. The overall belief in Mexico is that faith in Jesus and prayer to the saints equals holiness unto the Lord.

Our team from FAS and WGM received the opportunity to clarify what God's standard of holiness is through the story of Joseph in Genesis. Joseph, much like the young people we were ministering with this week, had to make daily decisions to choose God or not in a world that had many other options to offer. There are phrases that are repeated in the story of Joseph: "But the Lord was with Joseph" and "God allowed Joseph to have favor with the people." Because Joseph allowed God to define his identity, Joseph's attitude and behavior was different from what could be expected of him. However, Joseph faced heart-wrenching betrayal and undeserved consequences. Presumed dead by his father, he lived as a slave in a foreign land. That doesn't sound like "favor" to me.

How could someone who had God's favor go through these hardships and trials? Who in their right mind would follow a God like that? Our team heard stories of pain from people asking similar questions. Shortly after committing to follow God into the mission field, a young man tragically lost his father after glimpses of healing during an extended hospital visit. Another young woman was a victim of abuse a few years ago that left her asking if God really loved her. For another young man, the scars of a painful past weren't just emotional. He had been in a freak car accident that left him wheelchair bound for the rest of his life. It's the age-old question still felt in the depths of all our souls: "How could a loving God allow suffering in the world?" Scripture doesn't leave us aimlessly wandering in our spiritual deserts.

James 1:2–4 (ESV) says, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

This truth was a much-needed reminder for both me and the young people we were ministering with: **Holiness is not devoid of suffering.** Often when we desire for more holiness in our lives, the Lord is *kind* enough to give us trials so that “the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 1:7 ESV).

What’s the key to all of this? What is the end result of this suffering? God does not allow suffering because he is a sadist, but because those trials can lead to more dependence on him (our good) and to give him more glory (Rom. 8:28). Dennis Kinlaw (does that name ring a bell?) says in *This Day with the Master*, “A pure heart is an essential ingredient for accomplishing the mission that Jesus has given to Christians, which is the **redemption of the world.** We are to surrender totally and completely to the One who gave himself for all people, and when we do, he uses us to accomplish his purpose: **that all persons might know him.**”

In Joseph’s story, God redeemed the suffering he went through and used his past experiences to prepare him for this very goal. Joseph’s faithfulness and gifts brought him to the proverbial White House of Egypt at the right hand of Pharaoh himself. In a land marked by physical and spiritual famine, Joseph’s dependence on God led to the salvation of a whole nation and many others around it. **God did not waste Joseph’s suffering, and he doesn’t waste our suffering when we surrender to him.**

In a way that only God could plan, we saw the story of Joseph come to life before our very eyes. Some of the youth had truly surrendered their pain to God and asked him to purify their hearts after hearing the call to holiness. At an evening service midway through the week, one of these youth bowed at the altar in front of the whole congregation. Almost immediately, his friends joined him and cried out to God in prayer. What followed was something I rarely have seen in American churches. The families and pastors of the young people began to pray over them and intercede for their souls. There were grandparents holding their family together as they cried out for God to move. Many were weeping and people laying prostrate in the presence of God.

Our team debriefed what had happened shortly after the service ended a few hours later. Our most common realization was that **it only took one person’s surrender to bring the oasis of God’s manifest presence into the whole room.**

When we are “wholly for God,” as Francis Asbury himself puts it, the oasis of God flows out of us and floods those

around us. Jesus says in John 7, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” We often block the flow of living water when our priorities are out of order. God seems to correct us in moments when we encounter his Spirit like during that evening service. Time seems to stand still. We begin to forget about the things we were worried about when we walked in the room. It doesn’t mean the important things lose their value, but rather their value is heightened when they’re in their proper position. Holiness is where all of our life is centered around God. Our desire for God becomes paramount over our careers, families, or any other thing in our life that competes for the number one spot.

What has the number one spot in your life? Do you see “rivers of living water” flowing in and through your life? Are you wholly for God? Scripture says that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us (see Eph. 3:20–21). That power is the oasis in the desert. That power is the rivers of living water. The power of God has the ability to change hearts and lives forever. We saw it in Mexico.

Will you see it in your life? 🌿

Fields White unto Harvest: A Holy Reconnaissance in the UAE

Fekadu Amanu



THE CALL BEFORE THE JOURNEY

Over several months of prayer and discernment about the Holy Spirit’s leading, I shared with Rev. Bill Kierce the growing nudge in my heart to explore the possibility of expanding FAS ministry work into the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Through our conversations, that gentle prompting began to take shape as a divine invitation rather than just an idea. In the days that followed, through deep reflection and continued spiritual dialogue with Rev. Kierce, I sensed the Spirit’s unmistakable direction.

What began as a quiet stirring in prayer soon became a holy summons—a humble step of obedience toward an unfamiliar land. Guided by the Holy Spirit, I went with one desire: to listen, learn, and see where God was already at work. I could not have imagined that this journey would unfold into a revelation of grace and purpose—an awakening to how faith quietly flourishes amid the glass towers and desert winds of the UAE.

Weeks of united intercession in our Monday morning prayer meetings had prepared the way. Then came a seventeen-hour flight guided by trusted regional contacts, landing me in Dubai’s shimmering September heat. My plan was simple—to visit a few churches and meet believers across the Emirates. Yet over six unforgettable days,

God opened my eyes to a harvest already in motion, echoing the words of Jesus: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matt. 9:37 NIV).

A NATION RIPE FOR KINGDOM OPPORTUNITY

The UAE, a federation of seven emirates, is small in size yet immense in global influence. Within the heart of the 10/40 Window, it serves as a crossroads of nations. Nearly ninety percent of its ten million residents are expatriates from across the world, and while Islam is the state religion, vibrant Christian fellowships quietly flourish. From the moment I arrived, I could sense that the Holy Spirit had gone before me, arranging divine appointments in this remarkable land.

SCRIPTURES ALIVE IN HEALING HALLS

One of my most moving experiences was visiting Kanad Hospital (formerly Oasis Hospital) in Al Ain. Its hallways are lined with framed Scriptures in Arabic and English declaring words of life and hope:

“I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25 NIV)

“Whoever drinks of the water I give will never thirst.” (John 4:14 NIV)

“I have come that they may have life.” (John 10:10 NIV)

Arabic Bibles rest in patient rooms—bold testimonies within a Muslim-majority nation. The atmosphere seemed charged with heaven’s heartbeat.

This faith legacy traces back to Drs. Pat and Marian Kennedy, who came in 1960 at the invitation of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to serve a nation in crisis. Their small, twenty-room facility became the first modern hospital in the region, combining compassion and competence. Today, Kanad Hospital remains a national treasure—the birthplace of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan—and a living witness of the Gospel’s transformative mercy.

A CHURCH ROOTED IN LEGACY

Right next to the hospital stands Al Ain Evangelical Church, built on donated land to honor the Kennedys’ legacy of faith and service. I preached in a humble, makeshift sanctuary that now hosts 51 congregations under the care of Rev. Dave Peacock, a devoted Canadian missionary.

Imagine it—51 churches, 17 languages, all worshipping under one simple roof. Local leaders like Pastor Getnet faithfully shepherd each fellowship, together forming an extraordinary mosaic of unity and resilience. I had the privilege of sharing God’s Word with one of those vibrant congregations—150 souls ablaze with the fire of the Holy Spirit. That day, I embraced pastors from Ethiopia, India, and Sri Lanka—each carrying revival fire back to their communities. Their unity reminded me that the Church is not defined by borders, but by mission.

SHARJAH: A GLIMPSE OF REVIVAL

Later in the week, I preached at a Living Water United Church gathering in Sharjah, hosted at St. Martin Anglican Church. About 200 believers filled the sanctuary in heartfelt worship. As I preached, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully: two men surrendered their lives to Christ, and moments of healing and deliverance followed. In that borrowed space, Heaven touched Earth, proof that God’s presence knows no cultural boundaries.

EQUIPPING EMERGING LEADERS

During the trip, I met Rev. Yonas Tsegaye, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Churches in the UAE, and Pastor Getnet, his deputy. Together they oversee eleven congregations, including underground fellowships across the Middle East. Their plea was clear and humble: “We cannot do this alone. FAS, come and train us at least biannually.”

Their ministry, The Living Water United Churches, mentors 50 Ethiopian students through a UAE–Ethiopia education partnership. These young professionals—future scientists, technologists, and business leaders—are being equipped not only academically but spiritually to disciple their nations. Teaching among them renewed my hope for Ethiopia—and for Africa’s awakening.

HIDDEN FRONTIERS OF MISSION

Perhaps the most touching part of my journey was learning about the “House Lights.” Thousands of women from Asia and Africa come to the UAE as domestic workers, often feeling unseen and isolated. Yet through discipleship, they have become Spirit-empowered witnesses—House Lights shining in the hidden corners of privilege. Their whispered prayers and acts of kindness are seeds of revival behind closed doors.

Likewise, Ejaza Houses (“Houses of Rest”) provide safe places where domestic workers and laborers gather for prayer and fellowship. I preached in one such meeting as Pastor Getnet’s team shared food and Scripture together, turning weariness into worship and isolation into family.

THE CALL STILL ECHOES

As my time in the UAE came to an end, Rev. Yonas shared a vision for ongoing partnership: training pastors, equipping leaders, and deepening spiritual formation across the Middle East. As I boarded my flight home, one Scripture echoed in my heart—the Macedonian call:

“Come over here and help us.” (Acts 16:9)

That same cry rises today from the Arabian sands. The fields are golden. The workers are few. The Spirit’s wind is rising.

So, I invite you, brothers and sisters—pastors, leaders, intercessors—to pray earnestly for the UAE and the region. Pray that God will raise faithful workers and unite us in this great harvest. If the Holy Spirit moves your heart, respond as he leads—pray and partner. For the fields are white, the hour is near, and the call is clear. ✠