



Mandate of

YHWH

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. VISION	6
3. DISCIPLESHIP	7
Call to GO	7
Guidelines.....	7
Focus: Word, Worship and Prayer	8
Ministry	9
Fivefold	10
New Jerusalem Model (Plan)	10
4. SUNDAY SERVICES	11
The Lord's blessing	12
The Lords prayer	12
Focus, Finance Holy Spirit	13
Worship	14
Lords Table	15
Initiation rites.....	16
5. BIBLICAL FEASTS	17
Synoptic Overview	23
6. COMMUNITY.....	26
Building Blocks	26
Purpose of Community	28
Outreaches.....	28
7. LEADERSHIP	29
8. PERSPECTIVES	30
Inter-Faith.....	30

Food.....	31
Christmas.....	32
Perspective on sin	36
9. CEREMONIES.....	37
Weddings	37
Funerals.....	38
10. TITLES	39
11. PHILOSOPHY	40
12. SYNOPSIS	43



1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to present a brief yet clear and easily understandable outlay and explanation of River of Life Church, Jesus Anointed Ministries International; and Revelation 22 Global Church. We will highlight specific keywords which will aid in understanding all the concepts and aspects of ministry we discuss.

River of Life (ROL) is the home, or differently called the ‘Mother-church,’ for Jesus Anointed Ministries International (JAMI) and God’s vision for the ministry. Therefore, it is also the base-camp for the effluence of JAMI diverse ministry. JAMI encompasses various types of ministry:

- **Revelation 22 Global Church (Rev 22)**

River of Life Church (ROL) is the unveiling (foundation and transformation) first fruit of the vision corresponding to the Jerusalem Church in Acts. Jesus Anointed Ministries International (JAMI), is the seed of the vision, hence the apostolic arm portraying the ‘sending’ of all involved. The purpose of Revelation 22 Global church is to go, make and train disciples by being true Disciples of Christ and not of doctrines, churches or ministries. Therefore Revelation 22 is the manifestation of the vision of God.

- **New Perspective Theology**

This is a new End-Time Theology. This theology addresses the three dimensional reality: spirit, soul and body, which God has created in us, and focuses on spirit and natural realm truth. New Perspective Theology does not exclude previous or even current doctrines all together, but with the guidance of Holy Spirit, abstracts God’s truth from previous doctrines and combines it with the revelation we have received from God, revealed through His Word.

- **Yadah-Elyon Bible Course**

This is the practical arm in equipping the saints and is part of Perspective Theology. It is a Biblical course written mostly in laymen’s terms with the purpose of accommodating every gender, and / or intellectual dimension. The aim is to globally execute complete restoration of the image of Jesus Christ the Anointed One in the lives of individuals and churches, with no limitation to the spectrum of people progressed to. The focus is on transformation and application in practical living, eradicating the tendency of malfunctioning biblical knowledge. The outcome of the course must lead to an active, continual, and personal relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, serving and loving Him as true disciples. This is in process of development.



2. VISION AND PURPOSE

River of Life Church:



- Vision: Christ Jesus by Holy Spirit
- Mission: *To follow Jesus
To know Jesus
To become like Jesus and
To give God all the glory*
- Purpose: *Building a spiritual lighthouse where God's River of Life will flow in extreme abundance*

JAMI



- Vision: Christ Jesus by Holy Spirit
- Mission: *Equipping and preparing the Bride
Building a spiritual house for God worldwide*
- Purpose: *Equipping and preparing the Bride*

REV 22 GLOBAL CHURCH



- Vision: Christ Jesus by Holy Spirit
- Mission: *Globally making disciples of Jesus Christ by Holy Spirit*
- Purpose: *Being the spiritual house of God, manifesting godly fruit*



3. DISCIPLESHIP

Call to GO!

God's command to every born-again believer could not have been clearer: "Go and make disciples!" It is a command and not an option. We were not given liberty to change disciple-making into church ember-collection. However this has become the dilemma of the church. God's children doubted His command of 'Disciple-making' and exchanged it for the comforter approach. Compared with the Disciple-making church of Acts, the modern day church is in desperate need of change. It needs to be the kind of change that will bring back the principles and heart of God regarding this; people who will seek to efficiently yet practically 'make disciples', extending His Kingdom and glorifying Him.

The model plan the Lord gave us is the 'New Jerusalem Model'. It is a symbolic representation of 12 Gates, correlating with the book of Nehemiah 3 and Revelation 21. The purpose: transformation to the:

- **image** of CHRIST
- and **rule** of CHRIST.

Guidelines to Discipleship

The guidelines we use for Discipleship are primarily based on one of the courses of Yadah-Elyon and elaborate on the key principles and functioning of David and Jonathan relationships. Yadah-Elyon's manuals concentrate not only on one but on the different spiritual maturity levels of children, sons and fathers. Thus Discipleship is one of the main focal points of the ministry. We adhere to the following David and Jonathan principle, which in essence centers around:

- (a) Altruistic love of God,
- (b) Giving that is categoric (*not modified or restricted in any way*).

The above-mentioned is part of the five principles: **GOD**, **G**iving, **C**ovenant, **L**eadership and **L**ove. Holy Spirit will guide all future development of the strategy which is bound to occur.

Major emphasis is aimed towards reconstructive development in the form of counseling. We therefore do intensive training in this area and focus on: individual marriage and trauma counseling. Counseling is a major tool in Disciple-making.



FOCUS:

Word:

We believe in the infallible Word of God as a guideline to our conduct on a daily basis as interpreted or unveiled primarily by Holy Spirit.

Worship:

Worship entails far more than song and music and therefore encompasses a daily holistic lifestyle.

PRAYER:

a. Personal Prayer

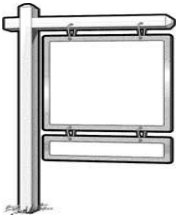
We emphasize that the importance of daily personal prayer is beyond description and every born-again child of God should pursue communicating with God.

b. Community Prayer

- We have prayer meetings throughout the year. Holy Spirit is our agenda, Jesus is our focus, the Kingdom of God is the heartbeat, and we all participate.

c. Global Prayer

- a. A freedom and liberty to pray as guided by Holy Spirit in regards to relevant global issues



Ministry

The origin of the word ministry is ‘servant’. Therefore our belief is contrary to the status quo of ‘one minister’ or even one ‘type of ministry’. We believe that God wants us all to minister in the diversity He has provided for us and we encourage all to be actively involved. The ministry focuses on an ‘apostolic New Testament’ approach. The different gates of the New Jerusalem Model clearly indicate different types of ministry and what is more important is that none can or should be neglected. They are simultaneously intertwined.

Ministry is a service to God. It should not be bound to a specific meeting, place or day but should be a 24/7 lifestyle resulting from a personal relationship with God.

Who gives us permission to minister then? God Himself! All who minister will do it in the Name and anointing of our Lord Jesus, by the ultimate power of Holy Spirit alone. This is confirmed in Ephesians 4:11-12 ***“He gave some to be apostles, and some to be prophets, and some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*** Nobody can, nor should they, claim a superior standing. The focus is on the call of God and Jesus’ ‘finished work’ on the cross and certainly not those who are mere instruments in His hands.

Different ministries include the representation of every gate. Different types of ministry take place during our Sunday gatherings (Miphkad Gate) and will be initiated by Holy Spirit, whether it is prophecy (Water Gate), prayer for deliverance (Dung Gate), healings (Valley Gate), teaching (Old Gate), or even prayers for our town, the nation, or the global Bride of Christ (Towers). All can be active during a gathering but the focus is also to have our people go out and minister as a lifestyle. Holy Spirit lead us to minister weekly after the service in three specific ways:

- Healing through prayers.
- Prayers for South Africa
- Bishops praying for the prayer requests of the congregational members

Various practical measures are taken before any ministry, and especially the laying on of hands, takes place. One of the most important is that we ask for God to cleanse our hands with Jesus’ blood and pray that there will be no evil or fleshly transference either to or from the person being ministered to.

Guidelines we follow in ministering to people:

- (a) Submission to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and praying for His divine guidance.
- (b) Praying for the gifts of Father, Son and Holy Spirit to flow.
- (c) The focus is on Him and NOT on us – all the GLORY is His.
- (d) Cleansing our hands through prayer before and after ministry.

FIVEFOLD

Three major foundational concepts in Ephesians 4:11-13 elucidate the fivefold concept:

- Semantics
- Ministry
- Purpose
 - (a) Some the semantics clearly point to diversity. The
 - (b) Ministry of Jesus is restored and divided into five diverse areas, apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists, teachers enhanced by the gifts of God in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.
 - (c) Purposeful..... To equip the saints (*born-again believers Ephesians 4:12*) so that:
 - (i) they can minister
 - (ii) the body can reach maturity
 - (iii) they can be edified
 - (iv) unity in faith
 - (v) reach fullness in Christ

Ephesians 4:11-13



NEW JERUSALEM MODEL

This is a three dimensional approach: spiritual, soulish, physical and therefore includes social indicators.

Overview:

Unless the Lord builds; everything built is done in vain. Nehemiah Chapters 1-3, as well as Revelation 21:21; are integral to the model we call the 'New Jerusalem Model'. This model, or disciple-making strategy, is thus a prophetic pointer to the coming of the New Jerusalem as indicated in the Word of God. It is a spiritual model but has clearly defined practical applications. The New Jerusalem Model points to our focus, which is Jesus Christ the Anointed Son of God; a lifestyle of following Him according to Matthew

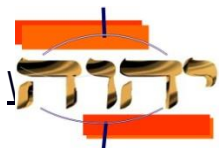
19:27; and transformation according to Galatians 4:19. The book of Nehemiah refers to the restorative process, whereas Revelation 21 has the strategy with End Time purpose found in Revelation 22.

The New Jerusalem Model has three legs:

- (a) Focus – Jesus Christ
- (b) Guidance – Holy Spirit
- (c) Participation – You

Gates

BIBLICAL NAME	SYMBOLIC	DESCRIPTIVE
Sheep Gate	Pastoral	Care
Fish Gate	Evangelism	Salvation
Old Gate	Teaching	Equip
Valley Gate	Healing	Heal
Dung Gate	Deliverance	Deliver
Fountain Gate	Worship	Lifestyle
Water Gate	Prophetic	Guidance
Horse Gate	Apostolic	Foundation
East Gate	Ministry	Service
Miphkhad Gate	Gathering	Community
Towers	Prayer	Prayer
Zion	Anointing	Anointing



SUNDAY SERVICES

- Vision** – To glorify Jesus thus boldly honor God by the enabling guidance of Holy Spirit.
- Purpose** – Gathering as God’s children and family, a holy community, to love, worship, honor and place Him on the highest place, and secondly to love and edify one another.

Philosophy – We believe that, according to the Bible, Sunday is the first day of the week and we give the first-fruit of our time to Him. We do pray and also thoroughly plan for every meeting; however, our firm belief is that any and all our plans are subject to God and the guidance of Holy Spirit. We gladly alter what man has planned for what God has in store for that specific day. Man plans but God directs and if He so chooses to do it during a gathering we do not resist nor enforce what we have planned.

God has given us a specific structure to follow which will be explained in the following paragraphs. Yet again, the doing of any or all of this is subject to Holy Spirit's guidance for the specific day.

PROPHETIC DECLARATIONS:

1.The Lord's Blessing

Our Sunday gatherings commence at 9am:

We declare that:

- (i) We dedicate the first day of the week to God
- (ii) This is God's time
- (iii) We embrace God's favor

At times, we wear the Thalit (Jewish prayer cloth) during this time and by doing this we say:

- (i) We symbolically and prophetically identify with the Jews, and confirm them as being God's nation and the church the Body of Christ hence a sign of us blessing 'Abraham' invoking a reciprocal harvest.
- (a) Secondly, we pray the Lord's blessings (Numbers 6:24-27) in
 - Hebrew, thus blessing the Jews (Genesis 12:1-2) and praying for the peace of Jerusalem.
 - Different & other languages (English, Afrikaans, Sotho). This blesses our own people.

2.The Lord's Prayer

As a family, in River of Life Church, we do the Lord's Prayer in unison, submitting in humility to:

- (i) God's ways;

- (ii) Proclaiming that we refrain from praying anything outside the ‘prayer of God’. This signifies that we trust God that all our prayers will be guided by Holy Spirit and be aligned to the truth of God’s Word.

3. Focus

Our focus is based on Jesus Christ the Anointed One and His Anointing. He is our Lord and undeniably who the Bible says He is. With our focus, we declare that we believe Jesus is the Son of God (1John 5:1-12); and He is the One on whom we focus on by the guidance of Holy Spirit, hence Christ by Holy Spirit.

4. Finances

Finances have always been a controversial subject, especially in churches. Many false beliefs robbed God’s children of the abundance He had planned for them. Philippians 4:17 says that we should not desire a gift but the fruit, that it may abound to the account of those who have given. This emphasizes that more blessed is he who gives than he who receives.

We do not place finances in a special category but we also do not neglect the importance God places on them. It is an integral part of worshipping God and lovingly and cheerfully giving back to Him. However, we have put great effort into educating our members about the financial freedom God plans for us, and have a Financial Freedom Prayer book available.

We equip the saints in God’s truth regarding finances. This is part of the time set aside to:

- (i) Give to God financially (tithes and offerings).
- (ii) To be financially educated according to God’s Word.
- (iii) To enable our financial lives to align with God’s Word.
- (iv) To live in His supernatural provision and wealth.

5. Holy Spirit & Us

‘Man plans but God directs’ is easily quoted and memorized by God’s children but few endeavor to make it a lifestyle in deed and not only word. A willing heart, an attitude of submission and sensitivity to the voice of God are needed for this to be accomplished.

We unapologetically declare that “we plan and God directs”. We seek the continual leading and guidance of Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage a spontaneous and liberal expression of our faith, trust and belief in God:
THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOD.

Questing for a liberal expression of our relationship with God and faith in Him creates rightful emphasis on His divine culture. It elucidates unambiguously that any other culture is secondary and of far less importance than God’s Kingdom and culture and us being ‘Kingdom citizens’.

We address every subject through the guidance of Holy Spirit and do not make apologies for disconcertion of those who hold onto sensitive ‘religious’ subjects. We are primarily:

- (a) ***NOT RELIGIOUS;***
- (b) ***Opt to be called ‘Disciples’ of Jesus as opposed to the habitual use and generalizing of membership and the word ‘Christian’ and / or any other title;***
- (c) ***All are welcome within Godly and Biblical parameters.***

6. Worship

Our Sunday celebration services include ‘times’ of worship with melody, song and **instruments**. However, we do want to make a clear statement that it is not to be misinterpreted. What are we saying? Worship in song during a celebration service is not in the least all that worship entails. Worshipping God is a lifestyle and includes many facets of which celebration through song and music is but a part and does not necessarily exclude other forms such as dancing etc.

We celebrate because Jesus was resurrected and during this time:

- (a) We allow individual, personal and also spontaneous participation of the Lord’s table during worship. The Elders pray over God’s vision for us and for the congregation;
- (b) People representing the congregation read the Word of God aloud on our behalf:
 - (i) to indicate our belief and faith in the Word of God;
 - (ii) to proclaim God’s Word over us.
- (c) We have assigned a specific leader to each week of the year and it is their responsibility to hear from the Lord who of the church members should join them in partaking of the Lord’s Table during the time of worship. The focus is solidly on ‘Remembrance of Jesus’ and by having different people each

week we guard against ‘habitual participation’. We want it to be honest, from the heart, and to glorify God. By partaking of His table and this Remembrance, we proclaim our **submission** focus on Christ our Lord.

Once a month, or as divinely directed, the congregation partakes in unison of the Lord’s Table and with vehement expression of thanksgiving we recollect the marvels of Jesus’ death on the cross and the indescribable blessings He attained for us.

7. Word and Prayer

Delivering the Word of God (the sermon) is an integral part of the Sunday gathering. We take great caution to ensure from our side that what is ministered is a direct result of Holy Spirit’s guidance. We lean not too much on our own understanding and know that we should listen and then ultimately obey what we hear.

THE LORD’S TABLE

The Lord’s Table is viewed as of paramount importance. In contrast to many we do not view it as just another church sacrament, but embrace it as an integral part of worship as a lifestyle. We also do not call the Lord’s Table any other name, e.g. communion, or whatever else.

The entire focus during the partaking of the Lord’s Table centers around:

- (a) REMEMBRANCE: recollection of the finished work of Jesus at the cross;
- (b) THANKSGIVING encloses the content of participation;
- (c) JESUS CHRIST the object in focus.

All believers (born-again) are welcome to partake but the responsibility of participation lies with them, unless in unusual circumstances differently decided by the leadership (1 Corinthians 11).

The mode in which we conduct it is according to specific Biblical order:

- (a) Breaking of bread and thanksgiving in referral to His BODY,
- (b) Drinking of wine, thanksgiving in reference to His BLOOD.

We follow the Biblical example, which does not include confession of sin, in relation

to the Lord's Table. The **MAXIMUM** focus is placed on Jesus during this time: remembrance and thanksgiving for what He has done and given to us. Although confession of sins during this time is not part of the Biblical example, it can take place any other time according to the guidance of Holy Spirit. We make use of pure wine for 'taking the cup'. After much prayerful research and prayer we found no Scriptural endorsing for the use of 'grape juice'. This is done by many churches but we do not judge. We can only act on what God tells us to do and because He spoke a clear word we are not open to discussions 'against the use of wine for the Lord's Table.'

Our uttermost intent is to honor God in spirit and truth and follow the exact way He leads by Holy Spirit.

INITIATION RITES:

Our belief regarding baptism is according to the Biblical reference and not the traditional mode. Therefore we do not only see the baptism as one baptism but we see it the way Jesus explained: Baptism in the Name of the Father (blood), Baptism in the Name of Jesus (water) and Baptism in the Name of Holy Spirit (fire / power).

We see the Baptism of blood as being born again in the Name of the Father, but through the work of Jesus. Secondary to this can be either the water baptism or fire baptism. Water baptism is a sign of us identifying with the death of Jesus and also His resurrection and symbolizing the cleansing of all of our sins, dying to the old nature and taking up the new image of Christ. Water baptism takes place by way of immersion in the water, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ only. When we are baptized in Holy Spirit we are endowed with power. The above are testimonies of the three witnesses that 1 John 5:6-12 speaks about.

We train and instruct all members in the truth of baptism, elucidating the matter with all scriptural references, and not with human reasoning, before they are baptized. This takes place in the form of a training day where we will explicitly train and explain the Biblical concept of baptism and of the vision, individual and corporate, in becoming true followers and Disciples of Christ.

We see Baptism as initiatory in our walk with God as Disciples and the 'Lord's Table' as a continual remembrance thereof.

We encourage all parents, who have new-born babies in the congregation, to bring them to church as we dedicate these children to the Lord, anoint and pray for them to live lives dedicated to honor God, and when they are old enough they can partake in the baptisms as explained above. Just note: there is no restriction to the age of a child, only that he / she understands perfectly and follows because of the conviction of Holy Spirit. Prior to the dedication our Bishops will pray

over the families (parents and children) in trusting God to bless them. During the Sunday Celebration we will dedicate the children to God.



JEWISH FEASTS VERSUS BIBLICAL FEASTS

The concept 'Jewish Feasts' is ambiguous and because of lack of understanding it is mostly incorrectly referred to. We favor 'Biblical Feasts' as a concept which is descriptively correct.

We believe the feasts were directed by God as a crucial, prophetic and symbolic part of God's all-inclusive plan. God masterminded this plan for both Old and New Testament eras expressing His plan of redemption for all mankind. The feast of Tabernacles is an exemplary example of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This feast is of major significance since it will take place even after the second coming of Jesus and the manifestation of the New Jerusalem. The above statements arguably prove a non-cessation.

Another very important feast is Passover. This is a celebration which will, similar to the Feast of Tabernacles, also be conducted 'forever'. The Old Testament explanation was presented in great detail whereas the New Testament seems not to be as clearly descriptive in regards to rituals and all they encompass. My argument is that the Old Testament was more physical by nature and mainly pointed towards the spiritual aspect of the New Testament. Thus, the New Testament celebration is more 'content' related, moving away from all the natural ritualistic detail of the old but not demising the reverence.

We annually celebrate the following feasts:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ○ Passover | } | including Atonement &
New Year |
| ○ Pentecost | | |
| ○ Tabernacles | | |
| ○ Atonement | | |
| ○ New Year | | |

Thus, regarding New Year we celebrate and administer our planning around the Jewish New Year, hereby not declaring we are an extension of the Jews, but we see it as the beginning of a 'spiritual year' in God. Secondly, we therefore proclaim that although we are in the world we are not part of 'this' world (system of this world).

יהוה יברכך

ROSH HASHANA

There are two days celebrated as New Year in the Jewish calendar. The one is a 'civil' year, a new year starting in the month "Tishri" (September / October). The other one is a 'religious' new year during Passover; I would rephrase the concept 'religious' and replace it with a more correct and articulate expression as a spiritual year. This occurs in the month Abib (Hebrew), later called Nissan (Chaldean). Our month corresponding with it is April.

Therefore, I argue we have an administrative year (January), a working year (September / October) and **spiritual year (April)**. Rosh Hashanah resembles a civil New Year. The day was celebrated by shouting and blowing of trumpets / shofars. It was done commemorating, according to Job 38:7, the creation of the world:

"When the morning stars (angels) sang together (unity and assembly), and all the sons (man) of God shouted for joy!"

This is also called the "Feasts of Trumpets" (Psalm 89:15) which continues from sunrise to sunset. "The blowing expresses joy of all the blessings and mercies of the past year" (Gill).

Poems (Psalm 81:4) were recited; meals included apples and honey to symbolize a sweet year and the greeting of a good year (Shana Tova).

I want to argue or rather make an assumption in context of the Gentile epoch in which we live:

Firstly, our first month is January and administers worldly affairs
(a) a sign of the 'world', 'worldly system'; a sign of diversion from God's ways;

Secondly, the working year commences on September / October, reflective of two possible events during this time and one to come:

(a) Possible birth of Jesus.

(b) Creation date of universe. At this stage I am uncertain as why God had a civil year instituted with its vital points of reference relating to importance (See second point above why God

תשס"ט תש"פ

points to Passover as New Year but never refers to Rosh Hashanah as not being the 'new' year anymore.

(c) 2nd Advent of Jesus.

Thirdly, April, commemorating Passover, pointing to the cross, typifies a new beginning = salvation – this points to a spiritual year.

yom kippur

YOM KIPPUR

Atonement -----

This is a solemn and major day of fasting as a congregation, starting the previous day at 17h00 and ending the next day at 18h00 (25 hours). It is a 'water-only' fast.

It is a day of atonement; in other words:

- Making right with God,
- Appeasing God, Him being the focus.
- We know Jesus became our propitiation. He paid the price on our behalf and our focus is on His works.

The focus of the day is on commitment to God and consecration, dedicating ourselves to the Lord in a day of repentance. Repentance includes confession of sin and turning to God. We do this to declare our dependence, in humility, to God.

Yom Kippur is a day of being 'AT ONE WITH GOD', celebrating, commemorating the CROSS through communion. The cross made 'at-one-ment' possible (reconciliation). In the Old Testament the Levitical sacrificial law 'covered' sin but the cross 'removes' sin. In the Old Testament God 'passed over' the sin (Romans 3:25). The New Testament interpretation is 'reconciliation'. The Hebrew word 'Kaphal' is interpreted as atonement, but actually means 'cover'.

The confession was made in the following order: "Oh Lord, thy people, the house of Israel, have transgressed, they have rebelled, they have sinned against Thee; cleanse us from our sins".

תשס"ד תשס"ה

This was done

- (a) Individually
- (b) Congregationally
- (c) Over tabernacle

(I believe today it should include our own houses as well as sanctuaries).

Today the cleansing stands in context of Isaiah 59:2. Our sin separated us from God:

- (a) Jesus died for our sins (Isaiah 53);
- (b) All of humanity have sinned (Romans 3:20);
- (c) All have come short of God's glory (Romans 6:20);
- (d) If we say we didn't sin we make God a liar (1 John 1:8);
- (e) If we confess, He forgives (1 John 1:8-10).

SHAVUOTH
Pentecost

This is a Greek word used for a feast, interchangeably called either:

- ✓ Feast of harvest;
- ✓ Feast of first fruits;
- ✓ Feast of weeks.

It is celebrated fifty days after Passover. Pentecost means fiftieth. Fifty is the symbolic number of Jubilee, or differently said, being set free or starting afresh. Another concept for Jubilee is that it is a day of remembrance. The feast contains elements that are spiritual, agricultural and community-related. The people came together to ask the Lord's blessing. In the Old Testament times it is a precursor feast of the coming blessing:

THE PROMISE – HOLY SPIRIT

WITNESS

The promise had specific characteristics:

And it is God's promise, hence 'ownership and will'.

<u>Afterwards</u>	– related to a waiting period and time
<u>I will</u>	– not man, church, doctrine or theology = GOD
<u>Pour out</u>	– metaphoric defining of divine methodology
<u>Context</u>	– abundance not drops
<u>My</u>	– divine giving
	– human receiving
<u>Holy Spirit</u>	= THE PROMISE
<u>Your</u>	– personal
<u>Sons, daughters</u>	
<u>and old men</u>	= all embracing unceasing elements
<u>Will</u>	= emphatic declaration
<u>Dreams,</u>	= signs coming from PROMISE will accompany
<u>prophecies, visions</u>	the event
<u>Those days</u>	= between First – Second advent of Jesus (today)

Incontestably Shavuot occurred during Acts 2, and Joel 2:28-29 was the prophetic utterance that took place and corresponds with Acts 2:1-4 (Verse 17 confirms). “When the day of Pentecost had FULLY come” dissects the above points to the fulfilment of the prophecy or that better stated, the promise manifests its content. The Holy Spirit outpour was initiated and all contents of the promise laid out, so eloquently the above were inaugurated and fulfilled.

This particular day was the first day of the week, Sunday, hence “Sunday services”.

I believe Pentecost, preceded by initial events like Passover (symbolic of Cross / Christ), and then on the day of receiving the law, Mount Zion, refers and reflects = LOGOS WORD (Passover / Law (Word)) and = BREATH OF GOD. My conclusion

is that after Jesus came, the crucifixion followed and then the Holy Spirit came to initiate and further Christ's work.

Celebrating Pentecost then means celebrating the promise of furthering the 'finished work'. The WORD by HOLY SPIRIT should be the focus accompanied by SIGNS and followed with preaching and a harvest. Pentecost is an active celebration of God's promise of the outpouring of Holy Spirit.

SUCCOTH

Feast of Tabernacles (1 Corinthians 23:34) -----

Alternative names for Succoth are: Feast of booths, Feast of shelters, or Feast of Ingathering. During this time the Jews built themselves shelters (called Succahs). They left their houses and stayed in these temporary shelters, symbolically pointing to our physical bodies as temporary 'accommodation' on earth.

They celebrated with joy; being reminded of God delivering them from slavery (Deuteronomy 12:12, 18; 14:26). They also celebrated God's abundance. They viewed the evidence of the above in relation to God dwelling in their midst. Let me synoptically rephrase the above:

It is a celebration of God in their (our) midst, abundantly providing unto them and removing enslavement. A key Scripture of the importance of this feast lies in Zechariah 14:16. The following inferences are made:

- (a) It is a yearly event;
- (b) Focus is to worship God;
- (c) Celebrate the feast with thanksgiving and unity;
- (d) Isaiah 11:9 / Habakkuk 2:14 add to the equation the feast as a time of God's Word covering the earth as the water covers the sea.
- (e) Isaiah 11:9-10 adds further that it is a time of restoration.
- (f) Remembrance of earthly temperance (2 Corinthians 5:1-2);
- (g) God calls out of the world people to be reconciled to Him (2 Cor. 6:16-17).

I want to ‘speculate’ spiritually; however, I do it in complete submission to God. It is deduced from other Biblical events that acted emblematical and later pointed to physical manifestation with ample evidence to prove it: The possibility that Jesus would come back on the day of the Feast of Tabernacles:

- (1) Proves absolutely logical;
- (2) Corresponds with other similar situations;
- (3) Could fulfil the last feast as the final culmination of the Church

Age – the harvest was gathered in (Feast of In-Gathering).

(I refer to Gentiles).

Previous festival facts – (1) Passover	=	Jesus died on the Cross.
(2) Pentecost	=	Holy Spirit came.
(3) Feast of Tabernacles	=	Jesus came.



SYNOPSIS OF MAIN FEASTS

Sabbath

(Sabbath) (rest) weekend celebration – family / rest (Exodus 20:11)

(Remember and observe)

Passover

(Pesach) In order that you should remember (Exodus 12:3)

(Deliverance / worship)

Pentecost

(Shavuoth) Fifty days counted, the promise (Exodus 23:16)

(God with us / empowerment (sign)

New Year

(Rosh Hashanah) Lead, beginning – a Day of blowing a shopfar (Numbers 29:1)

Atonement

(Yom Kippur) A day of returning

(Leviticus 23:27)

Tabernacle

(Sukkoth) Family feast festival

(Deuteronomy 16:13-14)

3 MAJOR FEASTS

three major feasts

PASSOVER

- Jesus Christ the Lamb – true Paschal Lamb

PENTECOST

- First Fruits - coming of Holy Spirit

TABERNACLE

- Heaven

Temporary replaced by Heaven – Father adored
in the work of creation.

3 MAJOR FEASTS POINTS TO THE: FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

Remember Old Testament Feasts were observed (I argue as prophetic actions over and over). The New Testament manifested the feasts content and established their purpose:

- Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sabbath and New moon, Purim (related to Esther)
- These feasts had common denominations:
 - = holy convocations on appointed days
 - = meals
 - = sacrifices
 - = dances
 - = fasts
 - = specified rituals

biblical feasts

Importance

God never intended rigid following of pre-determined rules and regulations. His focus was, is, will never be religious, sanctimonious observance. However, He wants us to understand the concept of the context – LAW in the **OLD TESTAMENT**.

Second to the above: strict descriptions of how to follow were given for initial understanding of the concepts of God and to weigh it in relation to progressive revelation. The content outweighs the 'strict following after' ritualistic rigidity by far. God's INTENTION was and is life =

JESUS IS THE LIFE.

Thus the observance centres around God = Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus the same yesterday/ today/ forever;

THE WAY

TRUTH

LIFE

biblical teaching



COMMUNITY

Our beliefs in regards to social interaction are biblically based, therefore we strongly believe in a three-dimensional approach (spirit, soul and body). Thus, as much as we focus on the spiritual, we do not neglect or exclude the mental and / or physical aspects. We believe the church is a community of believers and therefore, as a unit, we need fellowship beyond that of just a one-dimensional spiritual context.

To significantly address the ‘social level’ we arrange different ‘get together activities’ and one of the main ones is when we gather together every alternative month, after the Sunday celebration, to enjoy meals. The meals do take on different forms and range from snacks to light meals. The aim is to give the people time to enjoy socializing. Secondly, we have one fun day per year seen as a ‘game weekends’ where we physically indulge in a diversity of activities, simply for fun and fellowship.

Social Building Blocks

- *Individual relationship with God*

In addressing the Social Building blocks effectively, this necessitates the belief and understanding that God Himself, first and foremost, desires an individual relationship with every person. This is (and should be) the indisputable and exclusive cornerstone building block of the Christian community and society. We focus intensively on building personal relationships with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with the following pillars:

- (a) Daily Bible reading and studying
- (b) Personal faith
- (c) One Triune God, YHWH, only
- (d) Other ‘gods’ are demons
- (e) Complete devotion to God
- (f) Do whatever as ‘unto’ God

As a congregation we jointly endeavor to read through the ‘Bible’ in one year. In making disciples we focus on the above points to establish and restore the ‘IMAGE OF CHRIST’ in all people

2nd Building Block

- *Marriage*

The focus and view in regard to marital bliss rests securely on establishing fruitful relationships. Our approach is preventative and perspective. We believe it is crucial to enrich the covenantal relationship on a daily basis instead of seeking for a quick cure when problems arise.

The married couples in the congregation gather once a month for a ‘marital enrichment’ evening. We make use of multiple therapeutic and counseling approaches; however, we reject secular humanistic ideas and trust Holy Spirit for the revelation of spiritual truth only.

- *Homosexual and Lesbian relationships*

We firmly believe that these relationships are not only unnatural but totally against the way God created humankind. His Word is explicitly clear on it: it is abominable in His eyes and sin (Romans 1:22-32). However, should anyone involved in such a relationship attend our church we will, with the love of the Lord, teach them the truth of Scripture and also give them ample time to confess and repent. If they choose not to repent, and cling to their ways and relationships, we will expel them from our Sunday celebrations. We do not allow any person involved in homosexuality to become a member of River of Life Church, unless they repent completely and are willing to receive inner healing and deliverance.

3rd Building Block

- *Family*

It may sounds like a religious cliché, but in practice it is far from it. Family is of paramount importance. God thought it important because He created mankind and initiated families. Why then should it not bear the same importance to us?

The 21st century lifestyle ushered in busyness and lack of quality ‘together-times’ as families. Therefore, our modus operandi is that all families should have at least one ‘family night’ a month. The focus of such a night is that every family set themselves apart as a family to worship God through Word, Songs and Prayer. They should ‘bless’ one another, ask forgiveness for mutual sins or wrong doings and encourage one another in achieving their destinies in God. In doing this we also honor our parents, spiritual fathers, church fathers and Leaders in God.

We also encourage every individual family to spend at least four days (one for each quarter of the year) together as family – setting the whole day out for the family. Each family is free to determine their own programme which leaves room for uniqueness and the fulfilling of each family’s specific needs.

PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY

Firstly the meaning of the word ‘church’ in Greek is ‘Ekklesia’ meaning the ‘called out ones.’ Secondly, the word ‘koinonia’ is used in reference to fellowship. Combined, the two speak of community. We believe that the church is universal, thus globally distributed. The Church is a spiritual entity. However, this does not indicate a ‘non-gathering’ of the local believers. We should gather according to the guidance of Holy Spirit and God’s specific purpose and vision for a specific location based on the principles ‘called out’ and ‘fellowship’. He will then, in this specific location, bring together ‘called out’ ones who will gather at a specific venue and who will form a dynamic family, following after the vision God has given them. We can and are therefore in no competition with any other ‘Family of God’, nor do we entangle ourselves with their doctrines, whether it is truth, falsehood or simply erroneous.

Our main purpose is to know and embrace God’s vision for us: to practically live it as service to God. We aim to be a Godly spiritual family, or differently said; a worship community practically executing the Word given by Holy Spirit and as a result becoming a reflection of God, His plans and purposes. We, therefore, BELONG, are UNITED and live in LOVE as God’s disciples, not allowing another part of the Body to suffer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Local community

We feel God leads us to partake in the following areas:

(i) Donating Blood

The Bible says ‘life is in the blood’. Daily urgent appeals are made in the media emphasizing the need for blood. Donating blood may seem insignificant to us but every contribution will help somebody else in need. We do this `prophetically and see it as sowing a spiritual seed into the lives of the recipients. We claim their salvation in God. We encourage all our people to donate.

- (ii) **Doctors without borders.** We cannot reach all in the world and neither do we have the expertise. Doctors without borders globally help millions of people and only ask individuals for R15 per month contributions. They have an easy way of payment: deducting the R15 from our cell phones. However, bank transfers and other methods of payments are also accepted. It is such a small amount, yet all the combined R15's will help them in proceeding with their work. We prophecy God's healing to manifest in our time of need over this seed. We also declare that God is the PRINCIPAL HEALER.



LEADERSHIP

We function according to three Biblical directives

- : Apostolic teams (Sending ministry)
- : Eldership (called Bishops)
- : Deacons (preparation phase for potential future leaders (1Timothy 3:8;12).

River of Life Church, Kroonstad, submit to the Leadership of JAMI.

Our principal focus in regard to this is:

- : Leadership is an action and never a position, therefore committed participation in the vision is expected.
- : Leadership follows and is not sought after per se.
- : God chose and man affirms.

leadership style:

Theocratic leadership by nature and all decisions are therefore taken as follows:

- First and foremost, and always, God's direct council (Inclusive of the Scriptures);

Then, depending on diverse situations, it will involve one or more of the following:

- (i) Leadership by Apostolic Leader
- (ii) Oversight by Bishops
- (iii) Involvement of Gate Leaders (in relation to fivefold call and ministry)
- (iv) Involvement of congregation



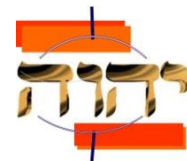
PERSPECTIVES

Specific beliefs regarding the following:

God's government versus local, national and international governments

Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment. For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same: for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing. Render to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. (Rom 13:1-7)

Leaders, whether in or out of church, are ordained, endorsed, permitted or at times prohibited by God. In regard to Church leadership the Scriptures clearly indicate that we need to submit to our leaders because God placed a responsibility on them to watch out for our souls, they stand accountable to God for us (Hebrews 13:17).



❖ Inter-Faith Movements

We believe in **ONE GOD** only. This is the basic foundational principle according to the Bible, which is the Word of God. Exodus 20 clearly states that 'other gods' are *demons*. The '*other gods*' are idolatry or, differently called, 'religions'. It was wrong in the Bible. It is still wrong today and the evolving society with all their human intellect cannot eradicate what was stated in God's Word, which is the truth.

We believe that Christianity is **NOT a religion** but it is based on a relational concept. The axis of true Christianity (disciple of Jesus Christ) is that we should become born again, baptized in blood, water and spirit, and have a living, intimate relationship with Jesus. Those who claim to be Christians but have not given their lives to the Lord, nor do they walk in a relationship with Jesus make out of Christianity a religious concept.

We do not approve or accept, based on the above principle, any religion. However, we do not reject the people. God loves them and so should we, understanding that they are in grave need of His salvation, which cannot suffice without repentance and faith in God and what His Word explicitly teaches.

❖ Eating of food sacrificed to idols

In the context of the RSA, we refer to in particular:

- ‘Halaal’, ‘funerals and the slaughtering of animals’, ‘weddings’ and other ceremonial food.

Let's first establish two foundational ground rules given in the Word of God:

- (a) You shall serve NO OTHER gods.
- (b) Who are these other ‘gods’? Biblical evidence deluges us with overwhelming evidence that they are ‘demons’ (1 Corinthians 10:18-21)

Thus, when we talk about ‘idol food’ we talk about food dedicated to demons.

The third ground rule for anyone who claims to be born again is to follow the above: “NO eating from the table of satan!” (1 Corinthians 10:21)

The common argument against this is that it’s not what goes in that defiles a person but what comes out (Matthew 15:17-18).

Let me then make a statement and follow with a question

- (a) We are all in agreement that all food, sacrificed to idols in the entire Old Testament, was wrong, forbidden and thus not allowed or practiced (Exodus 34:15, Numbers 25:2).
- (b) Unclean food, as in the vision Peter received, does not refer to food sacrificed to idols (Acts 10:14-15). This is also evident.
- (c) Why then, right at the end of the Bible, does Jesus come to the ‘Church’ and say:
 - (i) I have this against you
 - (ii) You tolerate
 - (iii) Being misled.....
 - (iv) Eating food sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 8:4-7)

The question remains ‘Do we want to **HONOR** God or forever argue with Balaam?’”
(Numbers 22:18-31)

We have to look at the rest of Paul’ statements in

1 Corinthians 8:7

- People with weak consciences will eat idolatrous food.

1 Corinthians 8:8

- Don’t abuse your liberty in God.

1 Corinthians 10:20

- Don’t have fellowship with devils (demons)
- e.g. Halaal = these sacrifices are offered
NOT TO GOD – but to demons.

1 Corinthians 10 23

- Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial.

Our philosophy is simple: we refuse to and don’t want to partake in anything (even though it might be culturally expected and accepted), traditions that are not done in glory to God. Therefore we encourage all our members not to eat food sacrificed to idols, according to Acts 16:28-29. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you (own responsibility) with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols.... Should individual members do differently, it is nothing more but a personal matter and it bears no influence or responsibility on the corporate body.

❖ Christmas

This is one of the Christian activities that affects and is part of the lives of most of God’s children. Most of us understand the concept of Christmas because we grew up with it. However, very few of us are familiar with the truth of the concept nor do we know what it is all about. Most of the church has compromised to the general annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on the 25th of December. This is one of many beliefs and traditions which, in doing, are labelled ‘normal’ in the Church of Christ. However, it is actually far removed from His truth.

The foundation of the law of God is that He is God, and He will not share His glory with any other. He will not partake from the table of satan and neither does He want His

children to do so. Daniel is an excellent example of a young man who chose ‘not to defile himself’. He adhered to God’s Word and ways and refused to be derailed by anyone else. In 1 Corinthians 10:2-23 the apostle Paul writes: “No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. You cannot partake in the Table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord? Are we stronger than He? All things are lawful but not all things are helpful”.

God says, ‘I can allow you to do certain things, but it is not good for you and definitely not constructive’. He clearly says that we cannot serve Him and Mammon. What does this mean? We cannot serve Him and a demon: period. What is salvation? Jesus was crucified on the cross to pay the price for our sins, transgressions and iniquities. We embrace that which He has done for us, allowing Him to become our only Lord and Savior. What is religion? Jesus + Meaning, adding ‘laws’ and ‘musts’ to Jesus for example: You must fast...

During the first three centuries after Christ Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven: there was **NO** knowledge or **ANY** kind of Christmas celebration. One of the main reasons for this was simply because Jesus was not born on the twenty fifth of December. We talk about **300 times**, during December, where it was not celebrated. Way back then nobody celebrated Christmas, but people started talking about it. Pope Liberius investigated the matter and decided, in the third century, to celebrate Christmas on the twenty fifth of December. A lot of controversy arose: should it be on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, or the 25th? The Egyptians even went as far as celebrating it on the sixth of January. Thus, in the early stages they celebrated the birth of Christ on any of the days between the twenty fifth to the sixth of January. Let’s put it in the different context. They celebrated Christmas – keep it to Christmas!

There is not a person on planet earth, or in the history, living now, and who will live tomorrow, who can point to one place in the Bible where Jesus’ birth is indicated on the current date celebrated. There is not even one place in the Scriptures where He indicates in the least that we should commemorate His birthday. The Bible is completely silent on the topic of Christmas. Would the Bible not say anything about something that is important to God? On the contrary, He surely indicated we should commemorate His death and resurrection! Makes one think!

What is Christmas? In order to answer this effectively we need to discover certain truths:

- (a) Where does it come from?
- (b) What does it comprise?

Christmas is a mixture of elements, symbols and icons. A true fact is that long

before Jesus was born, they had celebrations on the 25th of December in Babylon, in Greece, and in Egypt. The origin of these celebrations came from Babylon, many years before the birth of Jesus Christ. This is very important for us to understand. ***What we know today as Christmas was not at all Christmas then.***

Pope Liberius initiated Christmas on the twenty fifth of December, which also became the New Year. A mathematician, by the name of Dionysius, was appointed to make calculations in regards to dates, and the New Year was later changed to the 1st of January in 1535. It was known as the beginning of the Roman calendar. In 1582 Pope Gregory X111 brought changes to the calculations and this was when 'January 1st' officially became the first day of the New Year, the way we celebrate it today. (Please refer to our stance and belief in regard to the New Year, according to the Bible). As we speak, different calendars exist. The Jews have their own calendar; in actual fact they have two; the Chinese have theirs and the Arabs theirs, to name but a few.

Thus the 25th of December was known and celebrated long before the birth of Christ, as the Mithras festival, coming from Mithraism. Mithraism originated from Zoroastrianism, the Persians' religion. Mithras was the Persian god and they celebrated this specific god's day. The meaning of the name they gave their god was "the sun", like the sun shining on us, the "sun of righteousness". Most of the different festivities and rituals associated with the 25th of December in most of the world come from Babylon, especially as it was in those days, because of this 'sun of righteousness'.

Roman Emperor Aurelian changed the name of the festival and called it the Dies Invicti Solis: known as the festival of the invisible sun. They argued that this Mithras god embodied the sun, so wherever they walked the sun was all over them. They were a lot of pagans; heathens! Most Christians tend to forget that if you are not a Jew, you have a heathenish (Gentile) background. Just about all of us come from a historical, pagan genealogy and background. Salvation allows us to come into the Kingdom of God (It is a privilege and not a human right). This is very important to note, because in those days uncountable heathen and pagan practices occurred and the Kingdom of God is not to be compromised with occult practices. God is a jealous God (Exodus 20).

Christmas is also associated with various symbols, for example gifts, trees and lights. Upon investigating the origin and meaning of the symbols of Christmas it is evident that it just adds solid proof to the 'unbiblical' and pertinently demonic foundation. To have a better understanding of this, I will highlight some truths:

- (a) "Three wise men"; however the Bible never refers to three men, but the diversity of three gifts as was the custom then.

- i. The ancient customs associated with the 25th of December included sexual immorality, perversion, lawlessness and drunkenness.
- (b) Gifts were as much part of the festivity and customs of the Roman Saturnalia Festival.
- (c) Santa Claus was named in reference to the Bishop of Myra, St. Nicolas, who lived in the 5th century and became the mythical Father Christmas; however the Christian pretence is that the gifts represent the gift of Christ the Child.
- (d) Evergreen trees are a pagan worship practice, especially in Europe and more pertinently Germany, where it referred to the tree of life and fertility and the use of lights were incorporated to signify the expulsion of the growing darkness. The Celtic Druid Oak Tree was altered by Martin Luther, simply by replacing it with the current use of Pine trees.

The pivotal problem with these symbols lies in the fact that Christians adopted and merged demonic existing pagan structures and renamed them in the name of Christianity: Christmas.

Constantine and his whole army persecuted all the Christians; slaughtering and putting them in jail, and the end-result was cut-off heads! God's grace is beyond human understanding, because instead of rejecting him He led Constantine to salvation. However, this is also where the crux of many 'Christian problems' arose. Constantine, now a Christian, caused an interesting turn-a-round when he 'Christianized' secular and demonic rituals and structures because he did not want to lose the support of the vast majority of people. Therefore he decided after his conversion that he would transform and merge all the pagan festivals celebrated under the umbrella of Christianity. He decided that the feast of Mithras would then become the feast of the birth of Christ: Christmas. In other words: he took a pagan festival, which nobody asked him to do, and announced: "Let's celebrate Jesus and His birth on the same day", coinciding with our pagan festival.

The finding owner of the concept was a mere man, a human being, thus the origin of Christmas is human by nature, which was also built on the demonic foundation of the ancestors: the festival of Mithras. He therefore merged pagan concepts, icons and practices into what was called a Christmas celebration. Thus the early Church fathers: Origen, Ephiphanius and various others concluded that Christmas was a copy of pagan celebrations and fathers like Irenaeus's Tertullian omitted it from Christian celebrations. That very same day was also called "Saturnalia". It originated from the god 'Saturnus' which is called the father of Jupiter.

It is impossible to deny the pagan origin and bloodline of Christmas! All the celebration methods of the pagan festivals were now merged with the 'concept' Christmas. Even the

Roman pagans decided to play along and became Christians through participation because they knew they were not forced to get rid of their pagan culture.

Isn't that also true of modern day society? Take what is happening in South Africa as an example. It doesn't matter where you are, no matter what color you are, people want to become Christians but they don't want to leave their culture behind and use whatever scriptural backing they can find to include evil practices into the 'Christian lifestyle', true or false, or even taken out of context! Leviticus 19:19 clearly states that God's children are not to mix (merge or syncretize) different seeds.

In the time of Constantine, again the church fathers said this feast was nothing else but the pagans' festival. Their demand was to NOT have Christmas because they were convicted that it was a pagan festival. What will we do today? Will we do right in the eyes of the Lord, like King Jehoshaphat and so many others, but still 'burn incense and worship at demonic altars'?

As church and ministry we view Christmas as God's children still sacrificing on the high places and we cannot be part of it. Primarily, our conviction is not based on the pagan history of Christmas but Biblical facts, and indications that He was not born in December. It is a well-known fact in theological circles that there is far more proof that He was born during the month of September. Lastly, but most important: God never addresses us in His Word about celebrating the birth of His Son; instead, He tells us to commemorate His death and resurrection.

The life Jesus lived is to be emulated, venerated and celebrated. It is very important to understand that we DO NOT DENY the historical birth (incarnation) of Jesus Christ at all. We believe in it a 100%. We proclaim, confess and teach it as an undeniable truth. We do understand that the majority of Christians do not celebrate Christmas in the context of wanting to practice occult rituals. However, ignorance (Hosea 4:1) has no bearing to the syncretic effect of this particular day. We will judge no-one who celebrates it on that particular day, but we will ABSTAIN for reasons clearly defined. Again, individuals are solely responsible for their own behavior and will also not be judged by any who believe differently.

Our perspective on SIN

Our perspective of sin aligns with the Bible which, is the truth of God and His Word. What the word of God calls sin, we call sin. We do not make this statement from a superior standpoint, because the Word of God clearly indicates that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23, 6:23). Sin is inherited and part of human nature and most surely not extinct in Christian culture. We therefore:

- (a) Do not focus on sin;
- (b) Confess sin if we have fallen into it;

- (c) Repent (turn around, walk away and live differently);
- (d) Sin never defines who people are;
- (e) Sins of the past are:
 - i. Indicative of the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden.
 - ii. Transference of the satanic realm to create a demonic image in the lives of people, thus perverting God's plan.
 - iii. Paid for in full by Jesus.
 - iv. If confessed, it is cleansed and erased by the Blood of Jesus forever.
- (f) It is VITAL to focus on CHRIST to restore His image in us ONCE again.



CEREMONIAL ISSUES

Weddings

As River of Life congregation we have made a booklet available to include all the information couples will need to arrange for their wedding days.

Our current policy entails the following synoptic outline:

- (a) Settling all issues under submission and the guidance of Holy Spirit.
- (b) Both parties (male and female) should be born-again children of God. We refuse to confirm the covenant outside this biblical requirement.
- (c) It is expected of the couple to do a 12-week educational, informative and counseling time with the appointed Pastor. This should be finalized before their scheduled wedding day. During this time all legal documents should be provided. The sequence of meetings should be started off with 'a foot-washing' ceremony between the couple and their parents. The rest of the detailed activities are enclosed in the Wedding Ceremony Manual.
- (d) The ceremony, conducted by River of Life Church, will be done according to the outline Holy Spirit has given to the leadership and church. The couple will agree upon submitting and doing the ceremony in accordance of the above.
- (e) Certain traditional conducts have been excluded as part of the ceremony. This, and all other procedures and requirements, is thoroughly explained in the manual. The aim of the 12-week preparation time is to enable the couple to be prepared and have their marriage built on solid Godly foundations, to the honor and glory of God, and also that they will experience the beauty that God has intended for marriage life and not the run-down version society portrays.

Funerals:

We have a specific booklet with all the details of our requirements, arrangements and conducting of funeral services. However, we do want to emphasize a couple of points, and have a legal form of agreement that the family sign as an indication that they will conduct it in a godly way and not give way to any demonic or humanistic ways:

We require that the family will not arrange any form of night vision for the deceased. (Romans 13:12, Deuteronomy 18:10-12.) The family will not put the deceased's clothing together, light candles, put mattresses in his/her room till burial. In the case of a sudden death, the family will not allow any sangoma to go to the corpse. No sangoma will be allowed close to the body at all. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Leviticus 19:31). No animal will be slaughtered and dedicated to the corpse. No blood of an animal or ashes will be thrown on the deceased's clothing, nor will it be smeared on the windows or curtains etc. (Leviticus 19:26).

No rituals, like washing hands before entering the yard or house, will be allowed. The family will not wash the deceased's clothing with aloe after the funeral. After the burial, there can be a mourning period, with a CLEAR understanding that NO demonic will be involved, like animals slaughtering, being smeared with cow dung, gall or muti etc. No family member will be allowed to cut his/her hair roughly according to culture (Leviticus 19:27-28). We understand that the funeral will be handled Christ-like, not culture-like. This simply means that no other gods will be involved (Deuteronomy 4:39, Deuteronomy 5:7-9).

River of Life Church will not allow any form of cremation and the deceased will not be touched. In case of a church sermon, the coffin remains outside and will not be taken into the building where the service is held. (Genesis 23:4-6, Genesis 47:30).

The conditions and understanding then are that River of Life does not accept responsibility for any ungodly rituals being done afterwards, and no transference in the spirit will take place.



TITLES

We believe that each and every person has been called by God to fulfil a specific call and purpose (see Fivefold). However, we do want to emphasize that no one called by God has the right to a title for the purpose of self-elevation.

1. Therefore:

- (a) We acknowledge the call of God as written in Ephesians 4:11
Apostles – teachers.
- (b) We acknowledge the call of both elder – episkopos (Acts 15:23) as well as
deacon – diakonos (1 Tit 3:12) in the church.
- (c) We acknowledge the call of God to be sovereign and not institutionalized or
secularized.
- (d) Calls should be confirmed by God through prayer and agreement by
Leadership, through the guidance of Holy Spirit.

We, as a result of our believing the above, would as a church and a ministry recommended as policy the following:

- The leader of Ministry to be called
 - ‘Apostle’
- The leader of Church (es) to be called pastors, irrespective of their call, but recognized by their call.
- All leadership in official meetings to be addressed firstly by their call and secondly by their first names. In all correspondence the same will happen.
- Our elders to be addressed as Bishops and secondly by their first names. This will, however, not be the case with ‘deacons’ and secondly pastors in the practice of those two offices.



It should however be made clear that this is not an introduction of some level of supremacy but merely

- (1) Respect for the office of God;
- (2) Defining of role;
- (3) Identification;
- (4) Work of ministry of Jesus;
- (5) As a prophetic people we prophecy the “Ministry of Jesus”.

We hereby do not go in agreement or disagreements with anybody concerning the above but obey the direction God is giving us as church and ministry.

In using the fivefold; elders; bishops terminology we identify different leadership roles / calls and highlight different calls and unity.



PHILOSOPHIC INSIGHT:

The following statements are fundamental core issues. Everything is based on the revelation of YHWH and thus effluent from the above:

- We serve GOD, as ONE TRIUNE GOD, manifested in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- He is YHWH, and everything is about Him, the ONLY God and all else ARE secondary. Thus man's role and involvement take the back seat in the ministry equation. Human needs are served in context to the above and rigidly secondary to God's plan and vision.
- The functioning governmental system of church and ministry lies within the borders of absolute Theocracy; divinely guided and governed by God. Therefore, in the context of the belief systems, practices and lifestyles of modern society, we will inevitably abstain and render no participation to whatever kind and / or forms of secular, humanistic, religious and even cultural belief systems and practices.

River of Life Church, Jesus Anointed Ministries and Revelation 22 Global Church are separate, yet joint-together Godly concepts with NO human founder or owner. Hence

we understand this ministry as a JESUS MINISTRY, a new work of God creating a new generation.

- **Essential Principles:**

- a. The following concepts are essential to our salvation: GRACE, FAITH and FORGIVENESS and therefore basic to our ministry as well.
- b. Jesus' statement on the Cross 'IT IS FINISHED!' is foundational to the ministry and therefore SUBMISSION, SURRENDER and ANOINTING are vital concepts in our functioning.
- c. We are a prophetic people, with a Godly mandate, which is uniquely and divinely imparted, eradicating a 'copy-cat syndrome'.

The mission is to join passionate disciples who embrace their Godly mandate and living lifestyles of holistic worship. This will result in a THREE-dimensional worshipping community and a divine culture.

The 'First Principles' (Hebrews 6) is basic to our function, as we are stewards of GOD's word. This is a restorative movement:

- correcting,
- rebuking,
- and educating (discipling),

and in context of the above, with the basic essence and emphasis on a relationship with God the Father, God, the Son and God Holy Spirit, lives are transformed. The restoration of the image of CHRIST BY HOLY SPIRIT OR LOGOS WORD BY THE BREATH OF GOD is the primary purpose of it all. God's call for our lives is of vital importance. The ministry CALL is directed towards the five wise virgins who are filling their lamps with oil (anointing), ensuing that they become the mature Bride of Christ. The ministry model is the New Jerusalem Model and it consists of plans and strategies that extend beyond the borders or walls of the church. It undeniably encompasses a diverse ministry.

The ministry style is universal, different, unique and not bound to traditional liturgy. No-one person is above another. Equality is fundamental to ministry and leadership, thus rendering attention where and on whatever level is needed. We are a Saints' Movement of disciples of Jesus the Anointed One: a people clothed with His greatness and submitting to God. No space is allowed for secular, humanistic and / or demonic seduction, influence or workings. Revelation 22:14 clearly says: "Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have the right to the tree of life," thus leaving no stone untouched in ridding ourselves, in GOD and with His help, of any demonic influence. We do not allow anybody to lay hands on people and if we do pray through

the laying on of hands, we first and foremost ask the Lord to cleanse our hands with JESUS BLOOD and we forbid any ungodly transference.

As ‘faith disciples’ (walking not by sight) our aim is to focus on the spiritual, yet our overall demeanor is positive, releasing BLESSINGS and we have no intention of being negative or releasing curses in any situation.

We are carriers of the vision of God and therefore not in competition with anybody else in the body of Christ. This ministry is established and called by God to produce Godly leadership.

We unashamedly declare that God, YHWH, is our ONLY SOURCE and sole PROVIDER of any and all resources. He sustains our very lives, spirit, soul and body, and creates diverse channels of income and also the re-distribution, in first honoring Him with the tithes and offerings and also sowing Godly seed as He leads on a continual basis. We are primarily only stewards of what already belongs to God and will obey and channel it the way He wants us to.

We believe Israel is God’s chosen nation and the church (a different entity) the Body of Christ. We acknowledge that both are called by God and we bless them according to the perfect will of God. We celebrate the Biblical Feasts with the sole purpose and FOCUS to honor God. The forms and celebrations of the Feasts are conducted exclusively by the guidance of Holy Spirit and in no way are they celebrated rigidly or even according to the law. They are celebrated with Godly, prophetic insight and freedom in Holy Spirit, and if it may seem foolish to others what we do, we will be unstopping and passionate about living for God in the fullness of what He calls us to.

Non-essentials

The above are essential foundations and non-negotiable. Any non-essential issue that may arise is PRAYERFULLY considered as debatable.

Achieving the impossible for God!



SYNOPSIS OF MINISTRY:

Jesus Anointed Ministries International is a **Jesus Ministry**, who in preparing the Bride of the Anointed One, is building a **Spiritual House** for God worldwide: a **VICTORIOUS End-Time Kingdom Anointed Bride Church**. The above is accomplished strategically through our disciple-making plan: The **New Jerusalem Model**. It is an End-Time Saints Movement, consisting of children, sons and fathers with the purpose and mission of globally making disciples who bear Godly fruit by restoring Christ's image and preparing the way.

Our focus:

Jesus, the Anointed One with His Anointing by Holy Spirit:

To know Him,

To follow Him,

To become like Him,

and therefore to **give** unto the **one and only God** the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all the **glory and honor**.

Jesus Anointed Ministries International operates in **divine faith** within God's mandate, embracing **worship as a lifestyle**. The parameters of our redemptive and geographical keys encompass a **three dimensional-approach** towards the functioning of the **spirit and natural** realm. The **fivefold** leadership ministry of Jesus is a **New Perspective** Theology based on **God's authority, anointing and truth** and aims to globally **restore** God's government and thus bring peace (wholeness and completeness) in the lives of God's children.

