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From the desk of  
**JOHN BRADSHAW**



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Dear It Is Written friend,

In my letter last month, I shared, very briefly, that I had just returned from an evangelism rally in Phoenix, Arizona. I want to tell you more about what God is doing in that city. Since last year, we have been working with local churches preparing for a major evangelistic series this coming October.

Karen is the Bible work coordinator for the Phoenix series. She relocated to Arizona after months of work preparing for our meetings in Kansas City last year. Karen began connecting with local churches and training lay members to become active soul winners. Throughout the churches where she is working, **a common theme is, “Here I am, Lord, send me.”** Through friendships, community events, Bible studies, and Revelation seminars, God is using Phoenix church members to effectively reach hearts with the gospel.

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Phoenix is the fifth-largest city in the United States with a metro area population of almost five million people. Nearly half of the city’s population identify as Hispanic and it is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Known locally as “The Valley,” Phoenix boasts a hot desert climate with summer temperatures regularly



*I spoke at rallies in Phoenix where hundreds of church members are excitedly reaching their communities for Christ.*

reaching 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Fortunately, I'll be there in the fall when temperatures are a bit more welcoming for our guests. The series will be held at the Mesa Convention Center from September 27 to October 26. **Pastor Robert Costa, speaker/director of It Is Written's Spanish ministry, Escrito Está, will be joining me and together we will be sharing the love of Jesus with this massive population.**



Since May 2018, Karen and area churches have been focusing on their theme, "Hope for the Valley," by building bridges in their communities. They are also preparing for Arizona Sunshine, an event in which health care professionals will offer free health care to thousands in a needy Phoenix suburb.

**Individual members have been inspired to use simple yet effective methods to touch hearts for Jesus.** One pastor's wife had felt that her ministry was complete supporting her husband but when he entered a nursing home for dementia, she felt inspired to do more. She remembered stories she had put together for children and asked the staff if she could share them with the residents at the facility. They agreed and a weekly Bible story group began. Twenty-six people now attend including several staff members.

*The church members in Phoenix are discovering that it's simple to share Jesus with those around them.*

Another church member teaches English as a second language and is using the English It Is Written Bible studies as lesson guides for her Spanish-speaking students. Another lady has a passion for healthy food and has started a small group Bible study in her home. They share a healthy meal and a Bible study. The group has grown from five to eight people already. A young man and his mother have a passion to meet and befriend their neighbors. As a result, **they have over 55 people in their "small" group Bible study.**

The church members in Phoenix are discovering that it's simple to share Jesus with those around them. Simple, yet blessed in a powerful way by the Holy Spirit who uses what we give Him and touches lives and hearts for eternity.

One afternoon a couple of church members were knocking on doors in a community asking if people were interested in Bible studies. They



*Church members study the It Is Written Bible Study Guides with their new friends.*

met Angie on her way to her mailbox and she was immediately interested. Week after week, Angie accepted the next lesson but one day, her husband answered the door and told the church members in no uncertain terms, “No! We’re not interested.” Angie overheard and retorted from inside the house, “I’d like to keep getting those!” A few weeks later the church members who had been visiting Angie learned that not only was she studying them, **she was using them in a weekly Bible study with her Catholic friends, “We’re really enjoying these,” she told her new friends.** This new friendship has led to conversations about putting God’s Word over tradition.

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Seeds of Bible truth are being planted, simply and organically, as church members are intentionally making friends for Christ. In a few months, **these same church members will be inviting their new friends to a four-week evangelistic series where Pastor Costa and I will be sharing the powerful, life-changing truths of the Bible.** Because of the faithful work of Karen and the Phoenix church members, we are expecting a rich harvest of souls who have decided to put Jesus first in their lives. We are already seeing the beginning of the harvest as church members’ spiritual lives are revitalized and excited.

Evangelism isn’t complicated. **It’s as simple as loving the people around us the way Jesus did:** meeting their needs and then reaching their hearts. Church members in Phoenix are discovering how powerful that love is in their city.

My letter this month has two goals. First, I want to encourage you to **do the simple things in your community.** Smile at the bank teller, be kind to the telemarketer, take your neighbor a loaf of bread. **It often costs us nothing to give hope to someone else.** Small acts of thoughtfulness pave the way for sharing Jesus with those around us.

Second, I want to ask for your help as we prepare financially for the upcoming meetings in Arizona. Finances often don’t go as far here at home as they do in other countries. While we are prudently preparing for our meetings through the work that Karen and local church members are doing, there are still considerable costs associated with a city-wide event like this. The venue, advertising, and program are simple too — just like the preparation — but they need to reflect the quality of the message we are presenting. The cost of advertisements, venue, technology, and Bible study supplies are all an investment in the salvation of souls for the kingdom of heaven.

I’m asking you now — in April — **because we need your help to financially meet the spiritual needs of this large city as we prepare for October.** Please join me in reaching the people of The Valley for Jesus Christ. Our financial need for this series is \$150,000. Your gift — regardless of the size — will make an eternal impact. But I want to ask you to give as

generously as possible. There is no more important work than evangelism, and souls will be impacted for eternity through this work. Please also remember that in addition to preparing for these life-changing series in Phoenix, we still need to meet our many other ministry obligations and initiatives. Your generous support is enormously appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of the It Is Written family reaching the world for Christ. I'm honored to work together with you in using the methods Jesus gave us to touch people for eternity.

Your partner in ministry,



Pastor John Bradshaw  
Speaker/Director, It Is Written

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P.S. It Is Written is preparing for a series of English and Spanish evangelistic meetings in Phoenix, Arizona this October. Church members all over the city are using the simple methods that Jesus taught us to reach their communities for Christ. They are making friends with their neighbors, and as a result, hundreds of people are studying the Bible and asking questions about eternity. We plan to help answer those questions this October but the financial commitment to a city of five million people is not insignificant. Please help us as we reach a major North American city with the gospel.

