

# The Gathering Net

## The Power and the Presence of “I”

By Carmen Falcione

Dear Saints,

As I was reading a devotional recently by Vance Havner, I was struck by the profound effect that “I” has in our lives. You see there are really only two “I’s” that are dominant in our lives. The first is the “I” in the natural, ourselves; and second, the “I” in the spirit which, of course, is God.

When an individual is an unbeliever, they truly serve only one “I” and that is *themselves*. A believer has decided that serving themselves will never really be fruitful and therefore lays down their “I” for the great “**I AM.**”

In Exodus 3:14, Moses asked God if the Israelites asked who He was, “What shall I say to them?” God spoke back boldly and emphatically, “**I AM WHO I AM!**” Therefore, tell my people “**I AM**” has sent you.” These are some of the most powerful, hopeful and sovereign words to come to the ears of mankind. And Moses got to hear them first. I don’t think he had any idea of the scope or impact these words would have on mankind for eternity.

Let’s look a moment at the literal Hebrew meaning of “**I AM WHO I AM.**”

It is related to the name of God-YHWH (Lord) and the verb ‘HYAH’ –meaning “to be.” So here it is: “I have always pre-existed, am always pre-

sent, and will always be.” I don’t know about you but that’s “THE GOD” I want to trust, know, and be intimately related with Him.

Let’s return to the battle of the two “I’s” in our lives. Our natural “I” is always pursuing the immediate gratification of the appetite of our flesh. I felt like there was a little play on the capital letter I because it represents to me the word-**independent.** We cannot serve two masters and when Adam and Eve decided to sin, they went from being dependent on God to being independent. Like them we do what we want instead of what God wants and knows is best for us. Therefore, as we serve ourselves there can be instant satisfaction but there are long term consequences and defeat. This battle goes on through the journey of our life, but the more we submit to the Lord, the more blessed and victorious we become.

There are great benefits in yielding to the ‘GREAT I AM’ in all and in every circumstance.

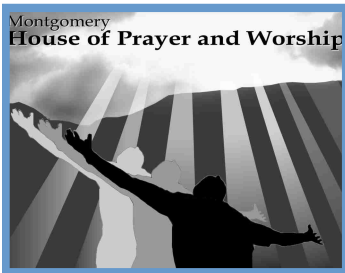
Let me share with you Vance Havner’s insight on this topic. “One night when the disciples were in the boat on the sea during a storm and Jesus was walking on the water towards them; they thought He was a ghost. He did not say there is no storm. He did not teach

them about the fallacy of ghosts. He did not say that the wind will blow over...so cheer up. He said, “**It is I.**” His presence made the difference. As I read this excerpt it really dawned on me that whatever difficulty, problem or issue I have, He can and is the great “I” in the midst.

Listen to these wonderful verses of power and encouragement from Jesus’ lips:

- (1) **For fear:** “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” Matt. 14:27
- (2) **For weariness and busyness:** “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you shall find rest for your souls!” Matt. 11:29
- (3) **For reality of Life:** “**I AM** the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger or thirst.” John 6:35
- (4) **For emotional, mental or physical healing:** “**I AM** the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me shall live.” John 11:25 He also says, “The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come to give you life and give it more abundantly.” John 10:10

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Grand Opening! See page 3!

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“The man who mobilizes the Christian Church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”

Andrew Murray



## Where in the World is Carmen Falcione? Heading to India!

By Rev. Alan Cross

October 4 – 13, Carmen Falcione, Bill Hurley, and myself, Alan Cross, will be traveling to Northern India.

- We will be working with a children’s home there that uses their homes and day care centers as bases for church planting. They care for and educate around 2500 children and have planted many churches in rural villages among the Hindus and Muslims of Northern India.
- We will also travel into the Himalayas to visit a Christian hospital. From this base, we will travel to villages to meet village heads, talk with them about their needs, and try and place clean water tanks in the villages. Church planters will come behind us to minister to the people in these villages. Did you know that for \$500, you can place a clean water tank in a village that will give clean drinking water for the whole village? We hope to do that.
- We are also praying that we will be able to have a meeting with Christian leaders in this northern India state to talk with them about

working together in developing a transformation network. There are indigenous ministries that specialize in church planting, and some that specialize in development work. Our desire is to help bring the two aspects of proclamation evangelism and doing good deeds together so that the gospel will be proclaimed in a holistic way through both Word and Deed. If these ministries can work together, they will be much more effective.

*Alan Cross is the pastor of Gateway Baptist Church on Bell Road.*

### Please Pray...

1. Please pray for us as we travel. Pray that we will have strength and that we will be provided with safety as we travel on dangerous mountain roads.
2. Pray that God would open doors for divine encounters and that His Kingdom would spread through us.
3. Pray for the Church of Northern India, that it would be strong and effective as it seeks to penetrate one of the darkest regions on the planet with the light of our glorious Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Alan*

Thank you, Lord, for the intercessors and supporters you have called forth for The Gathering, John 17, Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship and us personally. Please bless them with Your love and peace and anoint them with Your Spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### A Prayer Nugget

from Elaine Falcione

### MAKING MISSIONS

#### COME ALIVE!

Have you ever considered praying for, um, let’s say, India, since Carmen, Bill and Alan are going soon. How would you start? Well here is one tool that could help you.

1. Go to [www.ccnews.org](http://www.ccnews.org)
2. Click on the CCNews Portal link at the right sidebar.
3. From the Continental graphic you can go to any country in the world and click on the news.

It will make missions come alive. Imagine informed strategic, effective intercession!

It is like dropping bombs in a war campaign. Fervent and focused prayer makes a big difference for a church, a city, or a country. We ask you to join with the other prayer warriors who are making a difference in the Kingdom of God.

Blessings,

*Elaine*



## Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship

**Grand Opening Service of Praise to Our Lord**

**Friday Night, September 28 at 7 PM.**

**Greenbrier Place (1230 Perry Hill Road )**

**at the Perry Hill Exit of I-85 across from Colonial Park**

**Montgomery, Alabama**

Facing I-85, the Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship is off of Perry Hill just North of the Interstate, behind the Chevron station.

We know you have been wondering...we, like you have been expecting the opening since the Spring! After many delays in remodeling and much spiritual warfare, the Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship is finally complete and REALLY opening! We are so excited and want YOU to share with us in not only this first service but in making it a regular place in your weekly schedule - to retreat and have some awesome time of worship with the Lord and to answer His call to stand in the gap in intercession and unity with other believers in prayer for our City and beyond!

There are informational flyers available to share with your pastors and worship leaders so that they can help lead one of the two-hour prayer/worship segments. Please pray that God's people will come together in 24/7 prayer and worship! Call Carmen for more information.

*The Board of MHOPW*

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## *Carmen's Fall Calendar*

Every Monday

Sunday, Sept. 2, 9 am

Monday - Tuesday, Sept. 10-11,

Thursday, Sept. 13

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 10:30

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 11:30-1:00

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 3:30-6:00

Thursday, Sept. 27, Noon

Friday, Sept. 28, 7:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 1, 10:00

October 4-13

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 10:30

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 11:30-1:00

Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 AM to 4 PM

Sunday, Oct. 21, 10 AM

Thursday, Oct. 25, Noon

Teach Bible Study at Legacy Financial Planners

Preach at Living Waters Church

State Council Meeting in Mobile, AL

Pastor's Meeting at Canaan Land, Autaugaville, AL

Servant Leadership Meeting at Gateway Baptist

John 17 Pastors' Luncheon at Gateway Baptist

City Watchmen Prayer for the City

Bible Study at Beasley Allen Law Firm

Grand Opening of the Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship

Isaiah's Legacy Board Meeting

Trip to India (Delhi, Duradoon, Chaumba)

Servant Leadership Meeting at Gateway Baptist

John 17 Pastors' Luncheon at Gateway Baptist

Preach at Oak Park Youth Rally

Preach at Homecoming at Snoudown Baptist Church

Bible Study at Beasley Allen Law Firm

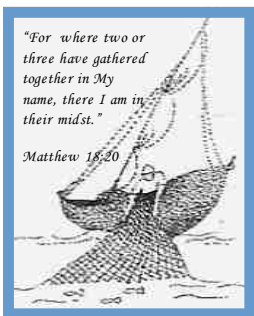
**The Gathering Ministry  
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*Committed to unity and  
reconciliation of the body of Christ!*

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(Power of "I" Continued from page 1)

- (5) **For trials and tribulations:** Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulations, but take courage, "I" have overcome the world." John 16:33

So, saints I have determined by His grace to continue to turn to the great "I AM" of my life so that I can experience the wonderful victory He has purchased for me and thereby share it with others, so that He may receive all the honor and glory.

I encourage you to read the guest article. The Lord has opened the door for Bill Hurley, president of Isaiah's Legacy, Alan Cross, pastor of Gateway Baptist and president of Community Development Initiative, and myself to go to India October 4<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for us. If you would like to be a part of financially sowing seed

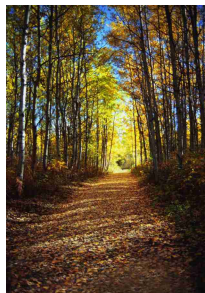
into this project you can mail it to Community Development Initiative at Gateway Baptist Church. ALL monies will go directly to the water purification system.

Don't miss the official opening of the Montgomery House of Prayer and Worship (MHOPW): Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

Thank you for letting me have a part of your time and lives. I pray great strength and grace to do His will in your journey. Eph. 3:20

Drawing on the great "I AM"

*Carmen*



Walk into the presence of the great and awesome "I AM" this Fall!

## the prayer closet -

### "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Dear Ones,

I really need your prayer cover. Please see Alan's article, page 2, for ideas of how to pray for our India trip.

I would appreciate your prayers for my ongoing ministry of

1. Teaching and preaching God's Word, often in businesses.
2. Praying for and around our community and the world.
3. Encouraging pastors (John 17, prayer groups, one-on-one).
4. Rallying Christian leaders to work together in unity for special projects and daily ministry to our community.

5. Helping start MHOPW.

6. Loving and blessing my wife, adult children and grandchildren.

I am also helping with these upcoming events:

1. Canaan Land Boys Ranch is planning a special week— Eight Days of Glory October 24-31 with many national speakers, times of worship...
2. Convoy of Hope is returning to Montgomery to reach the physical and spiritual needs of the River Region. Be praying for those doing the planning and for many to be touched by God's love: November 17 at Garrett Coliseum.