

Church Investors Fund

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH ONE INVESTOR AT A TIME



The King Who Saw God

by: The Loan Arranger



Nezahualcoyotl, whose name translates to “hungry coyote”, lived from 1402 to 1472 in the city of Texcoco, just east of Mexico City. His father, who was the king before him, had started a war with a rival city that was stronger than his, leading to his death and the reason for his son, Nezahualcoyotl, to run for his life. This is something Nezahualcoyotl had to do twice during his life, as countless wars rocked this period of what is now Mexico, in the years right before the Europeans came.

It was while he was on the run and spending time alone in nature that he came to the realization that the gods he served were not anything he could rely on. He is quoted as saying:

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“Truly the gods which I worship are idols that do not speak nor feel... some very powerful hidden and unknown god is the creator of the whole universe. He is the only one that can console me in my affliction and help me in such

anguish as my heart feels; I want him to be my helper and protection.”

It was in these times alone that he had time to think and evaluate what was true and what was not. Most people think that when something bad happens that disrupts their world, such as the COVID virus has this year, that it is simply a frustration that they must endure and overcome. However, the truth is that God often puts these moments in our lives to give us time to stop and think. This was the case with Nezahualcoyotl, and he came to the realization that what he thought was true, was not. Without this time of trauma in his young life he would likely never have taken the time to stop and think about these broader issues of life.

What this realization did for him was turn him into one of the best kings in all of Mexico’s known history. In fact, even today his image can be seen on the Mexican 100-peso note. He is remembered as being the poet king who judged fairly.

He not only outlawed human sacrifice in Texcoco, but he set up a set of laws that clearly laid out what was acceptable and what was not. He was so focused on the laws being stricter for those with more status and power that he had three of his own sons charged and hanged

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>> The King Who Saw God *continued*

for disobeying them. It was a clear sign to everyone that no one was above the law, and so his people fell into line and obeyed, creating what would become one of the most peaceful governments of that time.

Later in his life, he built a pyramid to the 'Unknown God who paints things with beauty". It was a clear sign that he was seeking the real God whom he could "see" all through nature. The Bible tells us in many verses that God clearly shows himself in what He has created.

Romans 1:20 says: "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have

been made. So, they are without excuse." David said something similar in Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

So, where does the present situation find you? Are you one of those left wondering why God allows evil things into our world, or are you one of the ones who has taken this unusual time to reflect on what we see around us every day?

Whether it was the Holocaust, the Black Plague, or COVID-19, God is still there for those who are willing to stop and look for Him. Spend some time alone in one of

His natural cathedrals and you will find Him too. ■



Focus on the Facts

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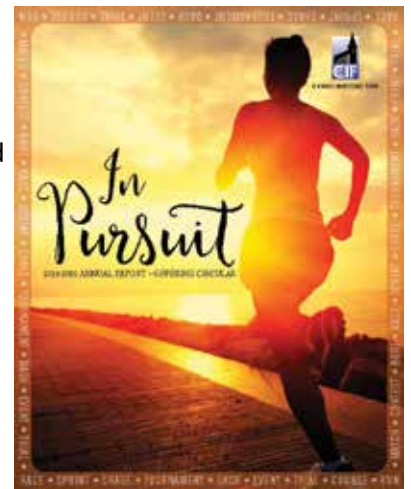
Percentage of pastors who estimate an increase in church attendance since going online.

Source: www.barna.org
April 14, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

We recently published and sent out our Annual Report for your information and enjoyment. Inside, you will find the financial information for our last year, as well as information about investments and stories from churches your partnership has helped to build the Kingdom. Please take a few minutes to read it!

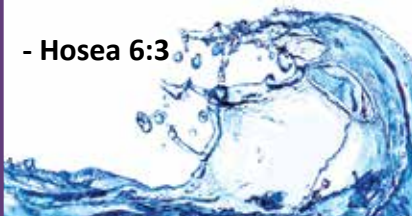
If you or someone you know would like an Annual Report and didn't receive one, please reach out to us by phone or email and we would be happy to provide one! You can also access it anytime on our website: www.ChurchInvestorsFund.org. ■



Living H2O

"Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

- Hosea 6:3



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Email us at ceif@ceif.org and ask to sign up to receive a new blog every week. 🌱



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Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Bob Glim
V.P./Marketing

The world is in panic mode. Toilet paper, cleaners, sanitizer, milk, eggs, meat, and much more are being hoarded. People are told to stay home, but if you must go out, to keep at least 6 feet away from other people. If you are an extreme introvert like my wife, the stay-at-home orders bring you a sense of comfort, but if you are not, then you probably feel like you are going to lose your mind. That would be me. I am one who feeds off human interaction.

As we begin to come out of this pandemic, there are some good and not-so-good things that will have come from this. Let's focus on the good for a moment.

I saw hope in this crisis – hope found in God. We found that the churches we serve are strong and have adjusted quickly to the new normal. Churches that had never recorded their church services were quick to adjust and provide an online presence that their members and community could experience from their homes. We heard stories of churches having more views of their online service than they had people attending before the crisis. This means new people who were not attending church are watching because they are searching for answers. They are looking for a light in the darkness. The technology that we have come to depend upon in our daily lives is driving fear into the hearts of people everywhere, but it is also serving as a tool to share God's Word.

Churches are also reaching out and impacting their communities more than ever. They are going beyond their walls and serving just as Jesus did. One church, finding itself with hundreds of rolls of toilet paper that would go unused during the lockdown, delivered them to a few hundred of their neighbors. We hear stories of churches helping members of their community who are in financial trouble by purchasing groceries and delivering them to their homes. We see churches preparing meals and delivering them to the homeless because shelters and food pantries are facing shortages. We also see churches creating face masks for the first responders and frontline workers. Churches are making supply trips for the elderly and those considered higher risk, so that they do not have to risk going out. These are just a few of the stories we have heard, but we know there are many more.

In these churches, selfless disciples risk being exposed in an effort to bless their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ by filling a need. Thank you to all who have allowed God's light to shine through them.

Is your church doing something to fill a need? Let us hear about it so that it can serve as an encouragement to others during a time when many are living in darkness. We are living in a time when the world is shaken and living in fear, but hope is "built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on his unchanging grace." Let's stand on "Christ the solid Rock". ■



Bible Facts Trivia

**Which apostle observed
the first martyrdom in
Acts 7?**

Answer: Paul, before his conversion! He held the coats of those stoning the deacon Stephen.



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