

What I have to say today is more theology than inspirational devotion -- just a thought that hit me recently as I listened to a program at the Alabama Writers Symposium. Kate Campbell is a folksong writer and singer, and one of her songs featured at this meeting was triggered by a visit she made to Mr. Rice's Miracle Cross Garden outside Prattville. If you're ever on Highway 82 and see the Country Club, take the next road to a most unusual sight! Mr. Rice is now deceased, but over his lifetime he used the acre around his home and across the road from his home to sing his praises to Jesus in the form of cross art -- "outsider art" at its highest development -- with inscriptions from "Jesus is Love" to "Hell is hot, hot!" But the sign that caught Kate's heart was "Jesus is the way home."

God created man "in His own image" to be His companion -- to share their home together. Adam and Eve were given very few "don'ts," but it did not take them long to decide they didn't want anyone telling them what to do. Our three-year old grandson Ewen is very strong willed. Returning from their last visit with us, our daughter Glenda and Ewen traveled, as is always the case, through the Atlanta Airport. Disregarding Glenda's admonition to Ewen to stay right beside her and not run off, he sprinted ahead, weaving his way at a fast pace, with Glenda racing as best she could behind him. She finally caught him, and as he flung himself down in a fell-fledged temper tantrum in the middle of the large aisle filled with people pushing and shoving to make their way to their planes, he shouted at her in a computer-like voice, "You do not tell me what to do!" This is in essence what Adam and Eve threw into God's face there in the Garden of Eden -- "God, you do not tell us what to do!" Mankind has been shouting and God has been working for reconciliation ever since.

Everything in the Old Testament is the story of God's trying to convince mankind to come home -- home to the relationship God originally planned -- a relationship in which He does tell us what to do and we do it because of His love for us. The New Testament tells the story of God's sending His Son to show us the way home.

As we listen to Kate Campbell sing, let each of us be challenged in our PW jobs to design and execute PW programs and events that call to the women of today's God-disregarding society in ways that lead and enable these women to indeed find themselves at-home in their relationship with Jesus Christ. (SONG)

As we light this candle, let us call into our presence Jesus Christ, the Light that shows the world the way home!

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