ISSUE #25

KINGDOM EXECUTIVE

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Weekly Newsletter



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR:

OVERTAKEN BY THE WORD:

Messengers pass. The Word does not.

Dear Kingdom Executives,

Grace and Peace to you! We are thrilled to share this week's newsletter with you.

Let's go back to the scene. A people newly home from exile stand in Jerusalem with a foundation at their feet and nothing standing on it. They had been building for sixteen years and had stopped. Some of them were old enough to remember the first temple and were grieving over the comparison. The rest had never seen anything worth comparing it to. It is a generation with a stalled project and a borrowed memory.

Into that room come two questions and no apology. Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? (Zechariah 1:5). Then verse six, which is the comfort: But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? The Hebrew verb is nissag, to reach, to come upon, to overtake.

The carriers died. The word arrived anyway, exactly where it was aimed. That is our theme, and it is good news for anyone who has been made to feel indispensable. The apostles knew the arrangement: we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God (2 Corinthians 4:7). Messengers are vessels. The treasure has no expiry date. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matthew 24:35).

Read it in that order. Zechariah does not end with an instruction; it ends with a declaration. I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the Lord of hosts (Zechariah 1:16). He turned back before they lifted a single stone.
So this issue will not send you out to rescue anything. Agree with what has already been done, and build from there.

Welcome. He went on ahead of you.
The Director

In this newsletter you can expect:

Feature story

Guest writer column

Business case study

Fun Fact of the week

Interactive question

Contacts

Feature Story

THE UNEXPIRED WORD

No generation in the post

In 1976 a Swedish furniture trader wrote a manifesto for his company and titled it The Testament of a Furniture Dealer. Ingvar Kamprad set down its values in his own words so the culture would survive him. He gave it an unmistakable command about frugality: "It is not only for cost reasons that we avoid the luxury hotels. We don't need flashy cars, impressive titles, uniforms or other status symbols. We rely on our strength and our will!" Another line from the same pamphlet reads, "wasting resources is a mortal sin," and it declares the company's duty to expand.

Kamprad died in his sleep at his home in Älmhult on 27 January 2018, aged 91, after a short illness. He had already stepped out of operations in 1988, working only as a senior adviser. By the time IKEA marked what would have been his hundredth birthday, the company he founded in 1943 as a boy selling pencils and seeds from a bicycle reported more than 500 stores across 63 markets and over 200,000 co-workers, and IKEA itself described the 1976 Testament, unrevised, as essential reading for co-workers fifty years on.

Notice what happened. The founder's presence was withdrawn; the founder's word was not. Fifty years of employees who never met him are still being overtaken by a document.

Now take that earthly fact and set it against the better covenant. Christ said it plainly: heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matthew 24:35). Peter cites the same contrast from Isaiah 40:6 the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord endureth forever. Moses wrote that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth from the mouth of the Lord.

Your succession plan will fail. His will not. Build accordingly.



Quote of the Week

"A founder's memo still issues instructions from a grave, which should humble us: a document can outlive its author. The Word of God outlived every prophet who carried it, and then it buried death itself."

Guest Contributor

SO HE HAS DONE: TESTIMONY FROM THE FAR SIDE OF OVERTAKING



I nearly destroyed the company I founded by assuming I was its load-bearing wall. We were a logistics business, family held, three trucks in the first year, forty-one by the eleventh. My father had built nothing. My sons were nine and twelve. Everyone told me I was the engine, and I believed them, because pride is the only doctrine that flatters you with your own obituary.

In the twelfth year I had a cardiac event at 4 a.m. in a hotel room and woke up on a floor tile cold enough to be a sermon. For three days I could not reach my office. My team ran the business, and the business ran. The invoices went out. The drivers ate. The clients did not leave. When I came back, I discovered that my absence had not exposed a collapse; it had exposed a false doctrine. I had been the indispensable man in a business whose Headship belonged to Someone else, and I had been so busy defending that throne that I had never trained anyone to sit at the right hand of it.

Zechariah 1:5 is the verse that undid me. Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? I read it in hospital, and then verse six: my words and my statutes, did they not overtake your fathers? The word overtook Judah through the prophets and it overtook me through a monitor. I stopped arguing with it. That is what the Hebrew means by returning and saying.

My confession now is past tense, and I recommend the tense. He did deliver me from that pride. He did teach me to build on something that could survive my funeral. So He has done, is not optimism; it is reporting. Under the law the fathers could say, according to our doings, so He dealt with us. I am glad that covenant is finished. I get to say, not by works of righteousness which we have done (Titus 3:5), and the sentence changes the building. I have trained nine successors since. Three are better than I was. The engine was never me.

The Guest Writer, writing from the far side

BUSINESS CASE STUDY:-FOUNDER'S FILE
ROBERT GILMOUR LETOURNEAU, THE MAN WHO WROTE HIMSELF OUT OF THE JOB.



📊 QUICK FACTS

COMPANY: **R.G. LETOURNEAU INC (LETOURNEAU TECHNOLOGIES)**
Industry:Heavy equipment and manufacturing industry
Headquarters: LONGVIEW,TEXAS

Background

He was born on 30 November 1888 in Richford, Vermont, the first of eight children in a farming family, and grew up moving west with them to Duluth, Minnesota and then Portland, Oregon. He left school at fourteen to apprentice as an ironworker at the East Portland Iron Works. He came to faith as a boy, walked away from it as a young man, and returned at sixteen through his parents' persistence. At thirty he made the decision that named his life: he would be God's businessman, and the commitment held for fifty years.

The company he built was not a small one to notice. He began land levelling in 1920, opened an engineering workshop in 1921, and incorporated R.G. LeTourneau, Incorporated in 1929. He was a relentless inventor of earthmoving machinery, holding patents that reshaped how heavy equipment moves, and his machines went into ports, highways, airfields and pipelines across the world. He is still remembered for one of the most quoted lines in Christian business writing: "I have a firm rule in my business. I do not make any deals in which the other fellow is not the biggest gainer."

Then he did the unusual thing. He decided his presence was not the reason his company worked, and he removed it as a load-bearing structure. In 1935 he gave away 90 percent of his company stock to establish what became the R.G. LeTourneau Foundation, funding missions, education and charitable causes. He gave 90 percent of his salary and company profits to religious work and lived on the remaining tenth, which he called reverse tithing. In 1946 he and his wife Evelyn founded the LeTourneau Technical Institute in Longview, Texas, the institution that became a college and then LeTourneau University. His son carried operational leadership after him. The manufacturing business eventually passed into outside ownership, and the machinery was absorbed into a larger group, but the foundation and the university he gave away kept running. He died on 1 June 1969 in Longview, aged 80.

Kingdom values at work:

Here is the practical lesson, and it is the thesis of this issue in a life. LeTourneau assumed from the start that the work would continue without him. He wrote himself out of the structure while he was still alive to be inconvenienced by it. Most founders postpone that decision until a funeral makes it for them. Zechariah 1:5 does not ask whether you would like to be indispensable. It tells you that you will not be, and asks what you built on the assumption.



Community Corner

Fun Fact of the Week

As of 1 August 2025, of the world's 7,396 living languages, 544 are still on the waiting list for Bible translation work to begin (Wycliffe Global Alliance). During 2025 alone, translations were published in 100 languages spoken by roughly 566 million people (United Bible Societies). Some of those 100 were the first translation any speaker of that tongue had ever held. The generation that received the word in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic is entirely in the ground, and the same word is now printed in a mother tongue that had no written form when your great-grandfather was born. Carriers die. The word arrives. Messengers pass; the word does not, and it has been proving that claim in a new dialect roughly every four days of this year.

Interactive Question

Which single policy in your business or organisation was designed by someone who is no longer in the room, and are you honouring the policy or quietly dismantling it?

👉Reply with Reply with the policy and one word: keep or change. We will print the strongest three in the next issue

Thank you for your valuable feedback, thoughtful comments and key insights. We appreciate you!

Thank you for reading!

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