

**HOW TO ACHIEVE
A HEAVEN
ON EARTH**

HOW TO ACHIEVE A HEAVEN ON EARTH

Edited by John E. Wade II



PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

GRETNA 2011

Copyright © 2010
By John E. Wade II
All rights reserved

First printing, January 2010
First hardcover edition, June 2011

The word "Pelican" and the depiction of a pelican are trademarks of the Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., and are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

How to achieve a heaven on earth / edited by John E. Wade II.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-45561-554-4 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Social problems.
2. Social action. 3. Religion and social problems. 4. Humanity. I. Wade,
John E., II.

HN18.3.H69 2010
362'.042—dc22

2009039137



Printed in the United States of America
Published by Pelican Publishing Company, Inc.
1000 Burmaster Street, Gretna, Louisiana 70053

Contents

Preface	11
Acknowledgments	19

Introduction

“ . . . for God, all things are possible,” <i>Donald R. Frampton</i> . . .	23
--	----

Peace

The Role of Faith in World Peace, <i>Tony Blair</i>	31
The Economics of Peace and Prosperity, <i>Sir Clive W. J. Granger</i>	35
Democracy and Peace, <i>Dan Reiter</i>	38
The Quest for Peace in the Global Village, <i>Thomas R. McFaul</i>	41
The Way Out: Gandhi’s History and Our Future, <i>Michael N. Nagler</i>	44
The UN Is Making a Difference in Darfur, <i>Rodolphe Adada</i>	47
The Lessons of Hiroshima, <i>Ted Turner</i>	50

Security

A Look at Radical Islam, <i>Paul Marek</i>	55
Energy and Security Through Fuel Choices, <i>Gal Luft</i>	57
How to Win the War of Ideas, <i>James K. Glassman</i>	60
Getting Off Drugs: The Harm Reduction Option, <i>Walter Wink</i>	63

Deal or No Deal: The Price of Purchasing Counterfeit Goods, <i>Alexandra Mack</i>	66
---	----

Freedom

The Lost Art of Family Meals, <i>Chef Paul Prudhomme</i>	71
Undivided Hearts, <i>Debra Rosenman</i>	73
Women Who Never Give Up, <i>Sharon L. Davie</i>	76
Choices and the Mystery of Life, <i>Jacob G. Hornberger</i>	79
Surviving Injustice, <i>James Douglas Waller</i>	82

Democracies

The Tao of Reagan, <i>Daniel Agatino</i>	87
What I Want for You and Every Child in America, [Then] President-Elect Barack Obama	90
What Made My Year Special, <i>George W. Bush</i>	93
Count Your Blessings: An Attorney’s Perspective, <i>Raya Tahan</i>	96
Africa’s Heavenly Surprise?, <i>Tunji Lardner</i>	98
A Mighty Wind, <i>Marianne Williamson</i>	101
Effective Leadership, <i>Congressman Anh “Joseph” Cao</i>	104

Prosperity

10 Ways to Get Rich—On Warren Buffett, <i>Alice Schroeder</i> . . .	109
Why How Matters, <i>Thomas L. Friedman</i>	113
Ending Poverty One Loan at a Time: Dr. Yunus and The Grameen Bank, <i>Julie Burtinshaw</i>	116
Protecting the World’s Children, <i>King Duncan</i>	119
The Great Seduction by Debt, <i>David Brooks</i>	122
What’s the Money For?, <i>Peter J. Tanous</i>	125
Changing the Game of Work, <i>Christine Barnes</i>	127
The Obligation to Help the Poor, <i>Kenneth Einar Himma</i> . . .	130
What Isn’t Advertised, <i>Jane Roper</i>	133
Preservation Complements Prosperity: The New Orleans Example, <i>Patty Gay</i>	136
Society’s True Wealth, <i>Thomas Höhenleitner</i>	140

Home Is Where the Spirit Is, <i>Emily Adams</i>	143
Bringing Hearts Together, <i>Reconcile New Orleans</i>	145

Spiritual Harmony

Liberty and Civility: What Benjamin Franklin and George Washington Taught Us About Religious Peace, <i>Chris Beneke</i>	151
True Democracy in the Twenty-first Century, <i>Mike Farrell</i>	154
Peacemaking in Northern Ireland, <i>Elizabeth Crawford Watt</i>	157

Racial Harmony

A Prisoner's Example: A Study of Nelson Mandela, <i>Rúna Bouius</i>	163
Reaching Out Across Our Borders, <i>Joshua Kucera</i>	165
Where Do We Go From Here?, <i>Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	167
See With Thy Eyes, Hear With Thy Ears, Listen With Thy Heart, <i>Robert L. Perez, Jr.</i>	171
We're More Than Our Race, <i>Leonard Pitts, Jr.</i>	174
Saints on the Playing Field, <i>Charlotte Livingston</i>	177
Of Colors, Cultures and Popcorn, <i>Mary S. Rich</i>	180
Homeless Meals and Racial Harmony, <i>Barbara Rogoski</i>	182

Ecological Harmony

We Must Act Now to Avoid a Carbon Summer, <i>Al Gore</i>	187
A Prince's Green Sensibility, <i>Michael Gerson</i>	193
Searching for Eden, USA, <i>A. Robert Smith</i>	196
Superstar Brad Pitt Makes It Right, <i>Renée Peck</i>	199
Envisioning a Green Middle East, <i>Levi Ben-Shmuel</i>	202
Creating Gardens of Paradise, <i>William E. Barrick</i>	204
Saving Small Friends, <i>Annette Aungier</i>	207
The Amazon Rainforest Cries for Help, <i>Jana Carvalho</i>	209
Ecology Matters, <i>Adrienne Froelich Sponberg</i>	212
An Earth-Friendly Mission, <i>Whitney Parker Scully</i>	215

The Evolution of the American Dream: Sustainable Neighborhoods and Heaven on Earth, <i>Brian Skeele</i>	219
--	-----

Health

Friends for Life: An Emerging Biology of Emotional Healing, <i>Daniel Goleman</i>	223
Body and Spirit, <i>John Hanc</i>	226
Making Love, Not War, <i>Stella Resnick</i>	228
Achieving Heaven on Earth Through a Just Cause, <i>Laurie Norris</i>	231
With Sobriety Anything Is Possible, <i>Todd Crandell</i>	234
The Mental Health Checkup, <i>Craig L. Katz, M.D.</i>	236
Heaven via Bike, <i>Mark Maccora</i>	239
Battling Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, <i>Eric Newhouse</i>	242
Taste Heaven on Earth, <i>Poppy Tooker</i>	245
Fit from the Inside Out, <i>Chris Bynum</i>	248
Perfectly Broken, <i>Mark Lundholm</i>	251

Moral Purpose and Meaning

What Our Lives Should Mean, <i>Danny Wuerffel</i>	255
Dreaming Heroic, <i>Lolis Eric Elie</i>	258
Billy Graham: God's Ambassador, <i>William Griffin</i>	261
Healing Holes in Hearts, <i>Darlene MacInnis</i>	264
Where Is Your Treasure?, <i>Dan Amos</i>	267
We Urgently Need an Academic Revolution, <i>Nicholas Maxwell</i>	269
Mother Teresa: An Ordinary Woman of Extraordinary Compassion, <i>Emilie Griffin</i>	272
Pilgrims' Pointers, <i>N. H. Atthreya</i>	275
The Kindness of Strangers, <i>Chris Rose</i>	277
A Thing New, Meaningful and Dangerous, <i>Robert D. Gamble</i>	280
Won't You Be My Neighbor?, <i>Peter Lovenheim</i>	283
Changing the World with Kindness, <i>David E. Crosby</i>	287

Individual Paths to Heaven on Earth

The Golden Rule and Other True Truisms, <i>Albinas Prizgintas</i>	291
The Centrality of Wisdom, <i>Copthorne Macdonald</i>	294
How to Create a Heaven on Earth, <i>Chris Wood</i>	297
How to Achieve a Heaven on Earth in Marriage, <i>Anne Teachworth</i>	300
Lesson of the Ants, <i>Yashodhara Raje Scindia</i>	303
The Age of Ambition, <i>Nicholas D. Kristof</i>	305
Four Hurdles to Success, <i>Dale Brown</i>	308
Can Fire and Water Make Peace?, <i>Hans Ucko</i>	311
Insight Through the Blue Dog, <i>George Rodrigue</i>	314
Heaven on Earth Is a Choice, <i>Lenny Ravich</i>	317
Many Mothers, <i>Maida Rogerson</i>	319
The Word Is the Way, <i>Sage Cohen</i>	322
The Invisible Element, <i>Gabriel Lang</i>	324
Relationship: A Means to Consciousness, <i>Sat-Kaur Khalsa</i>	326
Paradise Now, <i>Lili Lakich</i>	328
What Is Heaven on Earth?, <i>Jeff Teachworth</i>	331
Turning Our Dream of Heaven on Earth into Reality, <i>Martin Rutte</i>	334
UNICEF at Work, <i>Lisa Szarkowski</i>	337
Appendix A: Soldiers of Love	341
Appendix B: For Additional Reading.	343

Preface

“I will try to love and help create a heaven on earth”—the most important sentence that I have written or may ever write.

Many people already try to live by these simple, yet powerful, words without articulating this explicit promise. I believe that if we—one by one, million by million, billion by billion—would all accept this challenge, the world would progress immensely. Think about the words and use them to motivate yourself to reach out to love and help others.

How did the pledge come into being? The groundwork was laid by years of psychoanalysis and follow-up analysis, faithful attendance at Sunday school and church, much prayer and thought, as well as many varied life experiences.

The world may never really know me, or if it does I may someday be forgotten, as most of us are. But I believe those words and the concept behind them will live on.

“I will try to love and help create a heaven on earth.” Think about it.

Such an explicit, personal goal as this can drive humankind forward on a wonderful journey. I want my life to count. Dr. Milburn Calhoun, the publisher of this book, told me that he wants his life to count too. You want your life to count, don't you?

Character is elemental in all forms of human endeavor. Resiliency is also necessary for many of life's greatest challenges. A number of essays in this book convey these essential truths, one being, “A Prisoner's Example: A Study of Nelson Mandela” by Rúna Bouius.

Our very wise founding fathers made a serious pact in the form of our Declaration of Independence. That famous document

includes a reference to the pursuit of happiness. Such a concept is an attractive and desirable one, but I believe it can be carried too far if one lives a hedonic life. I once did. Instead of seeking only pleasure, we should, in many facets of our lives, delay gratification and seek to become part of a loving cause larger than ourselves.

The pledge is an invitation to join such a cause, either explicitly or implicitly. To help further this goal of guiding humankind toward a heaven on earth, I founded a charity, Soldiers of Love. This charity will be the beneficiary of half of my royalties from this book. Appendix A outlines the scope and achievements of this nonprofit entity.

Humankind has progressed and relapsed since the dawn of our existence. Yet the expansion of all kinds of knowledge has been rapidly accelerating, especially in the last few decades. Experts estimate that our knowledge is doubling about every ten years.

Our connectivity has expanded with the telegraph, telephone, radio, television, fax machines and the Internet. The computer and the Internet have increasingly allowed us to avoid duplicating knowledge. Now we can avoid searching, researching, inventing, and developing ideas that are available elsewhere within our company, government, organization or the entire base of human knowledge.

This increase in our knowledge has resulted in a doubling of human longevity, although the benefit is unevenly enjoyed around the world. For many of us and in many ways, life is easier than it used to be, from health to recreation to travel to the valuable time saved by modern home appliances. Formerly extremely poor nations, such as China and India, are making giant strides in advancing beyond their past states of abject poverty.

Beyond knowledge comes imagination. Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." I firmly concur with this giant thinker's opinion.

What does our enormous capacity for knowledge and imagination mean to a heaven on earth? These two basic ingredients can allow us to progress, but they in themselves are not enough. I deeply believe that since the dawn of humankind each of us and all of us have a little piece of God within us that goes beyond our human knowledge and imagination. Expressed another way, there's a hero inside each of us and all of us. We are made up of mind, body and spirit, with spirit being another way of identifying

that little piece of God. Our knowledge, imagination and our little piece of God combined with God Almighty's support will carry us to a heaven on earth.

I believe that God has always intended that humankind achieve a heaven on earth, with the necessary help of His enduring, steadfast love. All the great religions of the world teach the Golden Rule, to "Do unto others as we would have them do unto us." Let us build on that.

The ten elements that I believe are essential to our achieving a heaven on earth are:

1. Peace
2. Security
3. Freedom
4. Democracies
5. Prosperity
6. Spiritual Harmony
7. Racial Harmony
8. Ecological Harmony
9. Health
10. Moral Purpose and Meaning (doing the right thing with regard to word and deed)

Peace: The major keys to peace lie in our ability to prosper and spread democracies worldwide. Going beyond toleration to respect of all loving faiths is also critical. Advancing to general acceptance and appreciation across racial lines will build peace within and between nations.

The lessons of Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention World War II, show the extreme burden in spreading democracies through military action. As you will see from Michael N. Nagler's and Rodolphe Adada's essays herein, Mahatma Gandhi's methods of nonviolent actions coupled with a more effective utilization of the United Nations can allow us to proceed along a nonviolent path that will be far superior to combat.

In the short to intermediate term, the United States must maintain its military strength, especially to help stop genocide anywhere and aggression by non-democratic nations such as North Korea.

The good news lies in the long term, as the entire globe becomes more integrated on a wholesome economic basis and as governments evolve into stable democracies.

Security: We must strive to gain security from terrorism and crime. It is critical that we stop radical Islamics. History is replete with fanatics such as Hitler who somehow gain power with genocide and aggression. Recognizing the danger and acting internationally through winning minds and hearts without letting up on international pressure are essential to a victory over terrorism. For example see Paul Marek's powerful essay, "A Look at Radical Islam" and James K. Glassman's persuasive contribution, "How to Win the War of Ideas."

Legalizing forbidden drugs can rid us of the failures of Prohibition II including extensive national and international crime. See Walter Wink's essay summarizing this serious problem and a critical part of its solution.

Freedom: Freedom is prized by all humans whether they currently possess it or not. Implicit in the democratic ideal is that free individuals will generally act in their own best interests. And the sum of a free society's actions will allow a greater whole than with nations who repress its people.

We must be careful in exercising our freedom. Consider Chef Paul Prudhomme's essay, "The Lost Art of Family Meals." We must also cherish our freedom as shown by three other essays that examine various aspects of human freedom or the lack thereof. "Undivided Hearts" by Debra Rosenman even addresses the imprisonment of chimpanzees along with a more universal concern of all beings on earth.

Democracies: Democracies worldwide in the long run would be the best kind of government for reaching and enjoying a heaven on earth, for they empower the individual and ultimately societies to make good choices. History has shown that democratic governments are less likely to make war with one another. Additionally, they discourage tyrants who are corrupted by power. Democracies provide for the orderly transfer of power. However, we must realize that elections don't necessarily produce the best leader in every case.

Education and economic well-being lay the groundwork for stable, successful democracies. Democracies thrive with wise, capable and honest leaders as well as citizens who recognize the optimum balance of capitalism tempered with democracy.

Prosperity: Capitalism tempered with democracy and free, fair trade can lead to worldwide growth and wealth, which can benefit each of us and all of us to the degree that our own talents and resources permit. Preparation and opportunity go hand in hand with self-discipline and hard work. Each of us must strive for financial literacy and make it our business to know what we own. We have a responsibility beyond ourselves in our wealth. We are not meant to love money, but to treat it with respect and be generous toward worthy ends.

Education, the rule of law, and prudent, simple tax laws encourage prosperity. Effective, honest and stable governments also promote prosperity. Each democracy can decide on its own form of economic safety nets.

In this section Alice Schroeder presents “10 Ways to Get Rich—On Warren Buffett,” which goes all the way from methods to gain a fortune to philanthropy after achieving it.

I believe that a heaven on earth will still find us with varying degrees of personal wealth, yet all will have their basic needs fulfilled. Poverty will no longer exist. Each of us and all of us will be grateful for what God entrusts to us.

Spiritual Harmony: We must move beyond religious tolerance to real respect among all the world’s loving spiritual beliefs and practices. Even differing beliefs can lead to similar values, which in turn may lead to behavior that is acceptable to God. Loving religions teach us how to live our lives and how to cope with our own mortality. God’s enduring, steadfast love will empower us here, just as I firmly believe that love will allow all the other elements.

Chris Beneke’s essay demonstrates how George Washington and Benjamin Franklin practiced real religious civility, a discipline which will be needed globally.

Racial Harmony: While the lack of racial harmony goes back to

ancient times, that certainly doesn't mean that we can't overcome this obstacle. Our nation has moved forward largely by peaceful means over recent decades, including the election of an African-American president. Many other nations have also advanced in this march toward racial harmony. In our country we owe much of this nonviolent racial progress to Martin Luther King, Jr. See "Where Do We Go From Here?" in that great leader's own words. The Golden Rule is especially important in treating others with respect.

Ecological Harmony: We must tend to the world's God-given environment—emphasizing natural beauty and perpetual conservation. Concurrently, we must achieve a balance between those worthy goals and the necessity of rescuing those in abject poverty as well as maintaining all nations' economic progress.

Examples in this section include excerpts from Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech concerning global warming; Michael Gerson's essay about the Prince of Wales' pioneering ecological awareness and earth-friendly practices on his country estate; and "Superstar Brad Pitt Makes It Right" by Renée Peck lauding a charity in the process of constructing futuristic homes for those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Health: Technology and medical science are vital to advance the health of the world's population. Additionally, our own physical, mental and spiritual habits must embody disciplines that promote good health. Death is inevitable until God acts to prevent it, but wholesome, active behavior can result in longer and longer lives as medical science, our habits and economic means progress.

The quality of our well-being will eventually be assured not by inefficient and ineffective government programs, but rather by rewarding and continuing relationships between health providers and patients.

Topics presented in this section include emotional healing, the actual health benefits of satisfying sex, and even the possibility of death because of the lack of dental care.

Moral Purpose and Meaning: Moral purpose and meaning is perhaps the hardest element to achieve. We do not always do the right thing day by day. Our DNA and environments are not

perfect. We have weaknesses that can result in horrors such as the Holocaust. But our flaws do not mean that a nurturing environment can't lead to success after success until God finally takes over and pulls us out of the misery of our human condition. Examples in this area include Emilie Griffin's essay about Mother Teresa and William Griffin's essay concerning Billy Graham.

Many of the essays, speeches and articles in this book provide practical and useful ways to achieve the above elements, whereas others are more general in nature. But all the contributions reach toward an optimistic, positive outcome. Prior to assuming the presidency, President-elect Obama wrote about his dreams for his presidency. President Bush's presentation described the inspiration he experienced during 2007 from the examples of five outstanding people. One of the most critical aims of this book is to get away from the "noise" in the world, especially the unrealistic pessimism and cynicism that pervade the media.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This applies to all parts of this book including this Preface, the essays, speeches and articles as well as Appendix A and the Additional Reading List. This concept also encompasses each and every life as we strive for one awesome human village. Of course, we will never completely reach our supreme fulfillment until God intervenes.

When I started this quest to seek guidance from others about how to achieve a heaven on earth, I was thinking in terms of each of us and all of us, the whole of humankind. Yet as the essays came in, I realized that it has been and is quite possible to achieve a heaven on earth individually. Thus, in the past and present, many may have essentially attained a heaven on earth in mind, body and spirit.

That does not mean that we can achieve perfection, but rather something spiritual and meaningful that approaches a joyful, contented state, full of purpose. We can't be self-absorbed and do the right thing in word and deed at the same time, and it is doubtful that we could achieve inner peace while ignoring the needs of others anyway. Each of us needs food, shelter, health care, education and certain other basic necessities. Beyond that, much of life can be an unsatisfying accumulation of "things" if we are not grateful to our Maker and don't give back to others.

I believe the above ten elements and the individual paths to a heaven on earth apply to each one of us as well as all of humankind. This book is meant to engender serious thinking about how humankind can do our part to achieve a heaven on earth. If we don't have a worthwhile and definite destination in mind, it is highly questionable that we will ever be able to reach it.

Humankind must reach out for our ultimate destiny. Each of us and all of us must pledge "I will try to love and help create a heaven on earth." We must also seek to implement the ten elements for all of humankind. A heaven on earth. I invite you to think about it, imagine it, dream about it, pray about it, and, ultimately do something to bring it about.

*Love to Within, Love to Without, God's Enduring, Steadfast
Love to Within and Without*

John E. Wade II
Editor

Acknowledgments

First I want to thank the authors who contributed essays, speeches or articles to this ambitious undertaking. Many may have been surprised by or skeptical of a book seeking to achieve a heaven on earth. Yet they were daring enough and of sufficient talent to provide the wonderful pieces within this book. Again, thank you authors, one and all.

I have deep gratitude for my assistant editor, Patricia Livingston. I first started writing about a heaven on earth in the year 2000 on a trip with other Presbyterians to the Holy Land. I met Patricia on that trip and she became not only my editor, but my friend. She edited my book *Deep Within My Heart* which included my account of that trip. As I wrote more and more unpublished essays she kept asking me how humankind could attain a heaven on earth. We worked together to assemble this answer for all. Patricia is an accomplished writer in her own right. She has written a column, "Uptown Line," in *The Times-Picayune* for over twenty years, and contributed the chapter on trout amandine to *New Orleans Cuisine*, published in the spring of 2009. Whatever credit we receive from this book should certainly be shared with her.

Bond PR & Brand Strategy has also enabled this journey. Lauren Lagarde has devoted great effort in promoting the concept to potential contributors. Lauren, Jennifer Bond, Skipper Bond, Ashley Davis, Suzanne Anderson, Jamie Langley, Mathew Bowes, Casey O'Connell and Whitney Plaeger were all instrumental in some phase of researching for potential authors, contacting them and doing many of the logistical matters necessary to assemble these pieces.

Our copyeditor, Marion Stafford, has been a true professional, and I certainly appreciate her fine work.

International Strategy Group, LLC, and especially Suman Naresh have provided intellectual property advice and general guidance from the concept of the book to the negotiations of the book contract.

Pelican Publishing Company has stood behind us throughout the prepublication stages, and I look forward to a long and productive relationship with them. Dr. Milburn Calhoun, the publisher, possesses both intellect and character. Editor in Chief Nina Kooij and Dr. Calhoun's daughter, Kathleen Nettleton, have also helped our book team along the way.

While the spiritual beliefs of some members of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church may not coincide precisely with my own, the clergy, staff and congregation have furnished valuable spiritual food to me through good and bad times.

John E. Wade II

Introduction

... for God, all things are possible.

—Matthew 19:26

“... for God, all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26

By Donald R. Frampton

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

History is replete with stories of tragedy and disaster. It is particular news to no one that human life necessarily means times of sorrow and joy, failure and success, bitter disappointment and jubilant accomplishment. The biblical poet is at his philosophical best in describing life not as an “either/or,” but a “both/and” proposition: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted . . . a time to break down and a time to build up . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh. . . .” (Ecclesiastes 3)

The rain falls on the good and the evil, every generation of philosophers has concluded.

“That’s life,” we, the heirs of this age-old wisdom, have thus learned to say. Laws of nature do not treat everyone alike, nor do they make exceptions for good, as opposed to evil, people.

But simple stoicism in the wake of catastrophe is never the answer, for such only adds insult to the injury of life’s tragedies. When “life happens,” what matters most is not how we act, but how we *react*.

Hurricane Katrina was a killer storm in every sense. People not only lost their homes, their communities, and their livelihoods; some 1400 persons perished in its deadly waters. The general population remained in various places of exile for nearly two months until it was safe to return. Now, a year and a half after the storm, the city is less than half its pre-Katrina size with the overall situation being too daunting, too depressing, to justify re-establishing roots.

Others, however, remain—have chosen to remain—seeing in the storm’s deadly aftermath not the end, but a possible new beginning. Such is the case of the church I serve as senior pastor, a dedicated congregation of folk whose reaction to Katrina was fundamentally shaped by its Christian identity—children of a loving God and disciples of a gracious Lord. Because of our faith, we have been able to hear, even in the cacophony of voices of gloom, God’s clear voice of promise and new power—the God who “makes all things new.”

Katrina actually gave us new purpose. We fed, clothed, and housed. We cleared and cleaned, and gutted and gutted and gutted. Recently we shifted into building new housing.

And what have we seen for our efforts? Each day, we see God’s “new thing” in floor joists, and siding, and fresh landscaping. Each day we see God’s “new thing” in the faces of incredibly kind and generous volunteers from all over the country who, van by van, come to our city for an entire week. Each day we see God’s “new thing” in the tears and laughter and joy of once hopeless citizens as they watch their new homes going up right before their eyes.

But more than this, every day that we rip out moldy walls or nail down new plywood flooring, we are able to see God’s “new thing” reflected in our own faces. In the corporate face of an erstwhile ordinary church now transformed into a full-blown mission center, we see the face of God.

All things are possible for this God, we would testify, the One whom we worship and adore, and who, through us, gives us the power to make all things new.

Katrina was one of the most devastating natural disasters ever to affect the United States. At the same time, however, it has taught us about a God who teaches us never to lose hope—a powerful, providential God who made heaven and earth, and who plainly, plainly is still about the business of making all things new.

Don Frampton, senior pastor at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, is the son of a Presbyterian minister. In 1975 he received a B.A. in history with a minor in religion at the University of South Carolina. He was elected the National Undergraduate Chairman of Kappa Alpha Order and was active in fraternity affairs.

Dr. Frampton received his D. Min. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary with a faculty prize for biblical scholarship. He has served three Presbyterian churches with outstanding achievements in invoking membership and stewardship as well as community and international benevolences. His church and civic leadership during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has been inspiring to many in and beyond St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church.

**HOW TO ACHIEVE
A HEAVEN
ON EARTH**

Peace

*It is good that war is so horrible, or we
might grow to like it.*

—Robert E. Lee