

References and an essay

Inbox x

Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org> Jun 14 ☆

to dr.glenmaiden, surfnurse, Tom

Dear Glen,

Thank you again for taking the time to mediate this morning.

Here are three personal and pastoral references:

- 1. Joan Baccala, my mother. Chestertown, Maryland.
- 2. Bruce Caslow, a very close friend and former business partner. Fairfax, Virginia.
- 3. Saul Sliman, the leader of Seventh Seal, a Bible study group. Anchorage, Alaska.

Please note that the first two are in the Eastern time zone (Hawaii +6), while Saul is on Alaska time (Hawaii +2).

You suggested a blog; I'm attaching an essay that I wrote this afternoon. It's an expanded version of what I was planning to preach last Wednesday evening. I also have an HTML version, and I'll probably edit it a bit more before posting it somewhere.

I'm copying Richard and Tom. I think any of you should feel free to vet my references.

agape



Glen Maiden Jun 14 ☆

to me

Got it Brent, I wish to honor you and give this the time it deserves. I leave for Oregon tomorrow morning, will read on the plane. Does that work sir?

G

Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org> Jun 15 ☆

to Glen

Glen,

That's fine. Please coordinate with Richard and Tom to ensure that there is some kind of follow up.

agape
brent

Glen Maiden Jun 16 ☆

to me

Gotcha. I am contacting your references, now.

Glen Maiden Jun 16 ☆

to me

I connected with your essay, Brent. Well done.

Many thanks. I will contact you with the results of the reference check.

How are you today?



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 16 ☆

to Glen

I'm well. The Lord fed me today and gave me some work to do, in the form of a man I met asking for help setting up a website for his fledgling ministry. What else can I ask for?

Had an old laptop with a cracked screen vanish from my tent. No big deal, but clearly anything of value will be stolen here.

I plan to be in front of Surfer's Church preaching on Saturday evening. Just have all this stuff like what's in the essay pent up inside me and I need to express it to others. Jerimiah 20:9

I've started another essay and will send you a copy soon.

agape
brent



Glen Maiden

Jun 17 ☆

to me

Thank you, Brent.

It is my understanding that there is a no trespassing order still.

I do not want to see you jailed.



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 17 ☆

to Glen

Well, I'm not going to enter the building unless invited in by Tom.

I can't just stay away - it's what I came here for, hopefully led by God.

It might be helpful for you to formulate your thoughts and communicate them to Tom before tomorrow evening.

agape
brent



Glen Maiden

Jun 18 ☆

to me

We are where we are. I have gratitude and acceptance.

We are rebuilding trust. Trust is built with consistency over time. We are fine.

Praying for you today. I have one reference response thus far.

Warmly,

G



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

Hi Brent

Inbox x



Glen Maiden

Jun 19 ☆

to me

How was your Saturday? Are you ok?



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 19 ☆

to Glen

Dear Glen,

I am well. I fasted from Friday evening until Saturday evening, and spent much of the day in prayer. Several hours of that prayer were at the public pool, where I developed a nasty sunburn since I had left my suntan lotion at home, but I did enjoy about two hours relaxing in the water. A day of rest, fasting, Bible study, and prayer - a good Sabbath. Went to STN in the evening and spent my whole time there talking with Michael Carlson, who is a frequent visitor at Surfer's Church whom I met when I arrived on Oahu two weeks ago. He's passionate about the divinity of Christ and the inerrancy of the Bible, but objects to what I'm preaching as a religion of works. His is a pretty standard theology, but since we disagree on inerrancy, our dialog is somewhat limited. I saw Tom Bauer briefly but we didn't interact beyond a quick greeting. I made no attempt to enter the premises and left to break my fast after Michael went in to the service.

I was somewhat, but not badly, depressed later in the evening. More frustrated, feeling that I don't what to be here, and there's no point in trying to preach at STN. Then, this morning, before church, I had a renewed sense of purpose. I was thinking that God gave me that sign, and showed me exactly what this is going to take. I'm going to have to be standing outside STN every day, wearing the sign around my neck, talking to anyone coming in or out of the building. It's not particularly pleasant, but that's where I'm led by God, and nothing short of that is going to be effective. I think. I'm not so arrogant as to believe that I can perfectly discern God's will, but that's what I was thinking this morning.

When Tom suggested a week ago that he'd put me in contact with someone he's accountable to, and we'd discuss this situation, I prayed about it and felt led to give it a week. I prayed and considered it more this weekend, and have decided to give it another week. Yet I really suspect that next Saturday, I'll be back out there with that sign. I sure hope that we can achieve a breakthrough in that time period to avoid something so ugly.

agape



Glen Maiden

Jun 20 ☆

to me

Thank you, Brent.

I have received a reference from your mother and that is all.

Praying for you today.

Warmly,

G



Joan Baccala

Jun 17 ☆



to me

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Joan Baccala" <joanbaccala@gmail.com>

Date: Jun 17, 2016 1:18 PM

Subject: Re: Hi Joan and Bruce

To: "Glen Maiden" <dr.glenmaiden@gmail.com>

Cc:

Pastor Glen

I assume Brent told you I am his mother. That being said, I will try to be objective. As far as schooling, he has a degree in mathematics and minored in physics. Even so, his line of work is in computer programming. In that he is self taught. He has a very high IQ. I have been told that he does an excellent job of teaching in these fields.

As far as religious training, I will say that he grew up attending the Lutheran Church and the Methodist Church. While attending the Methodist Church, he took 2 Discipleship 32 week studies. I attended one with him. He was very serious and studious and proposed some points that we all had to ponder on what the answer should be. Over the years he has attended many different denominations. He became very good friends with one of the monks at an Abby in DC. They had many in depth discussions concerning theology. And at other churches I know he has had in depth conversations with both ministers and lay people.

After reading both 1 Timothy and Titus, I feel he has tried to live up to these standards. Whatever the age he is looking to teach, I know that he will challenge them in their thoughts and ideas. If given the opportunity, he could become an asset to your church.

On Jun 16, 2016 10:28 PM, "Glen Maiden" <dr.glenmaiden@gmail.com> wrote:

My name is Dr. Glen Maiden. I have been a senior pastor for 30 years. Brent has asked to do some teaching on discipleship in an academic setting.

Can you please give me a character reference based on the leadership qualities of 1 Timothy and Titus? Do you have any concerns? Affirmations?

Can you give me a report on his qualifications for teaching in an academic setting? Education? Personal experience? Does he have formal Bible training?

Thank you so very very much.

Warmly,

Pastor Glen



**Bruce Caslow**

to Glen, Joan, me

Hi Glen,

It is nice to hear from you. I am an old friend of Brent Baccala's. I have known Brent since 1992. I understand a reference for Brent, who I call, my "Genius" friend. Please read on and see why I call him my "Genius" friend.

Ever since I have known Brent, he has been an absolute giant in three areas:

- 1). intellectual activities - Brent is a world-class mathematician, physicist, and computer-scientist... and he is a musician. Brent is a Renaissance Man of the 21 Century!
- 2). physical endurance - When I met Brent, he was prepared and then he undertook a bicycle journey across the country able to live under extreme weather conditions in places like Alaska!
- 3). and most importantly, Brent's intense Christian spirituality. Brent loves to live by Matthew 5:42: "Give to everyone who asks of you. Good will be done to you and you will receive more than you give out." I have every met and I have an Aunt that was a Franciscan Nun and a cousin that is a Priest!

Here are some of the milestones in Brent's life:

At the age of 10 years old, Brent wrote his first computer program - a general ledger accounting program. This is absolutely no exaggeration! During his grade school and high school years, Brent skipped a grade. As a teenager, Brent was accepted at one of the most prestigious technical universities in America to attend the University of Maryland Physics Program. At the age of 21, he was working as a contractor in technology.

However, in his early 20's, Brent pulled back his pursuit of success in the world of technology for his pursuit of spirituality. He performed his bike trip across the entire US, from New Jersey to Arizona!

Brent is now 46 years old. For the last 20+ years, Brent's pursuit of spiritual fulfillment has overshadowed his career. He has developed world-class software for topics ranging from chess end-game analysis to computer vision and math graduate students in the Washington DC area and he has written a series of essays on a range of topics in math, science and technology but he has a greater love for Jesus Christ and living an authentic Christian life. He develops software development free of charge and he works for organizations like the University of Maryland or the University of Virginia at no charge at all.

I strongly recommend that any Christian organization engage Brent in whatever capacity it can. Brent can truly be a unique individual. Hopefully, he can find a role to help your Christian organization.

Feel free to contact me at [redacted] (cell).

All the best,

-Bruce Caslow
Co-founder, NetMasterClass, LLC
Fairfax, Virginia



Click here to [Reply](#), [Reply to all](#), or [Forward](#)

How are you this week?

Inbox x



Glen Maiden

Jun 22 (12 days ago) ☆

to me

How goes it this week? Are you ok?



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 24 (10 days ago) ☆

to Glen

I'm alright. Wrote another essay, but I'm withholding it for the moment. Want to pray about it more, and decide if any changes need to be made. Did some math work this week, proving a simple theorem in a paper I'm writing.

I saw that Bruce responded to you yesterday. Perhaps we can talk this weekend on the phone, and discuss how to proceed. What do you think?

agape



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 24 (10 days ago) ☆

to Glen

Dear Glen,

Here's the essay I wrote. I feel pretty good about it. There's some anger there, but I think it's righteous anger kept appropriately checked and channeled by the Holy Spirit. Let me know what you think. It's all the kind of stuff that the youth at STN need to hear.

agape



Glen Maiden

Jun 25 (9 days ago) ☆

to me

Thank you, Brent.



Glen Maiden

Jun 25 (9 days ago) ☆

to me

I have received word from Bruce and your dear mother. Can you send a note of encouragement to the third party?

Warmly,

G



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 25 (9 days ago) ☆

to Glen

Glen,

I don't know if Saul has an email. I think I only sent you his phone number.

agape
brent



Glen Maiden

Jun 25 (9 days ago) ☆

to me

If you could follow him up on his cell phone, that would be awesome. I texted him, perhaps he did not recognize me?



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 29 (5 days ago) ☆

to Glen

Dear Glen,

I spoke to Saul Sliman on the phone last night. He doesn't use email, and I tend to get voicemail from both of you when I call. I hope you can connect with him, but you could also play phone tag for a while, and I'm not willing to wait indefinitely for you two to connect.

Here's where I feel we are in this process. God's given me a message, an audience, and the means to deliver the message to the audience. Tom isn't thrilled with the means (the sign), but my sense is that God has provided an avenue forward for me, and I need to use it.

You came into the process after Tom had attempted to drive me off with the police, and that didn't work. So, we've had some dialog, and that's good. It's helped me refine my message by writing it down.

Yet we need to move forward on this.

I'd like Tom to lift the trespass order and let me preach one Saturday evening at Surfer's Church. I'm not optimistic about this happening, but that's what I'd like. Your task, as I understand it, it to try and find some resolution that avoids me going back out there with the sign.

You've had some opportunity to read what I've written and also to hear from some people who know

me. Is there anything else that you'd like from me? What is your reaction?

I anticipate being back out there with the sign on Saturday evening. I'm not trying to be threatening, but I just want to be clear on what kind of time frame I expect we're working with. I will not let this drag out indefinitely.

Can we find some resolution on this by the end of the week?

agape



Glen Maiden

Jun 30 (4 days ago) ☆



to me

Thank you Brent.

If you can get me another reference, that would be helpful.

If you wish to move forward, then I will give my prayerful assessment/discernment now.

You are a gifted mathematician. Your references affirm your gifting in technology.

I can you see you assisting millenials with their passion for technology, and in the process share your vision for discipleship. I personally like your blogging.

This is called earning the right to be heard. A pastor or missionary will work for years to build the trust necessary to disciple people. Jesus disciples 12 for 3 years, Paul mentored Timothy and Titus.

I also hear that you believe God has called you to declare the word of God as it relates to discipleship with spontaneity in public gatherings. This is a prophetic gift.

Here is my recommendation for you:

Build pastoral/missional relationships with a few willing followers using your tech gifting. Invite them to the library where you work on your tech. Millenials will love you and listen if you identify with their love for tech. I will assist you with online publication of your work. I will be forming an online church soon. This may be a cool avenue.

Your references did not affirm your prophetic gifting/calling. Nor did they affirm your credentials to teach in an academic setting. I did not hear a conversation about your experience with millenials. Tom's responsibility is to care for the students at STN in all venues and take ultimate responsibility.

This is not criticism, it's simply "out of the mouths of two or three shall everything be established."

The prophets spoke with clarity and conviction. They also experienced the consequences of civil disobedience.

I would recommend that if you feel compelled to violate the law, that you and Tom meet at a pre determined time with the police and permit the execution of the order decently and in order. Paul the Apostle went to prison. He was able to write some of his great works from incarceration.

If you choose to mentor a few willing disciples on the other hand, I will assist you.

Praying for you, Brent.

May the tender compassions of Jesus guide you.

Warmly,

Dr. Glen Maiden



 **Brent W. Baccala** <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jun 30 (4 days ago) ☆



to Glen

Dear Glen,

Thanks for your prompt reply.

Here's a different pastoral reference: Dr. Britt Johnston, _____, _____. Britt is the pastor of Anchor Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, Alaska. I'm a member of his church, and I attended there regularly when I lived nearby, but I hadn't been going to church there since December of last year, when I lost the apartment I had in downtown Anchorage. So we know each other fairly well, we just haven't seen too much of each other lately.

You constructive criticism is well received. I've spent years working with technology, and I've often wondered if that's the avenue I should pursue for ministry and discipleship. It's a process of discernment, one that's led me to the conclusion that technology alone isn't going to get me very far, and that I need to really listen to and obey the Holy Spirit. It might be stuff like a protest action. If it's done in the power of the Spirit, then it's going to be more effective than anything I come up with myself.

There is no issue of violating the law. Let me emphasize this point. Tom had exhausted every legal recourse at his disposal *before* he came to you. The sidewalk is public. I am acting perfectly within my legal rights to stand on the sidewalk holding a sign. I didn't take the sign down because I was asked to by the police - the police *never* asked me to take the sign down. I took the sign down because Tom finally suggested dialog in lieu of confrontation, and that seemed acceptable to me. He suggested you as someone he was "accountable to".

Yet there has to be a road forward here. If your suggested resolution is to invite people to the library to work on tech, then I'll be back out there with the sign. It's just the course of action God has given me.

I'd suggest further dialog, but I think that it has to be with Tom. You now strike me as a strange choice of mediator, because you're back on the mainland! The only way forward that I see, other than the sign, is for Tom (possibly with Richard) to sit and meet with me.

Why don't you contact Britt Johnston, see what he has to say, then send some kind of report to Tom? Please let me know when you've done this, and I'll request a meeting with Tom. Or do you have a different idea?

What do you think?

agape



 **Brent W. Baccala** <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 1 (3 days ago) ☆



to Glen

Glen,

FYI, I just sent Tom a message indicating that I expect being back out there with the sign tomorrow evening.

Report on Our Process

Glen Maiden <dr.glenmaiden@gmail.com>
To: "Brent W. Baccala" <cosine@freesoft.org>

Fri, Jul 1, 2016 at 3:25 PM

Hello Brent and Tom,

I am following up on our work together to vet Brent for ministry at STN.

The Scriptures are clear we are to examine the character and qualifications of teachers in the church and her prophets.

Brent has supplied 4 character references of whom 2 have responded, his mother and a friend.

Both references love Brent and think highly of him. Brent's technical skills are exemplary and of the highest quality.

No reference affirmed the gifts in the church of teaching or prophecy.

Brent, your references did not affirm your teaching or prophecy gift within the church. If you have other references, I would be glad to reflect on them and encourage you in that direction.

I do think you are qualified to disciple a small group in an informal setting. I would highly recommend an accountability person with track record in ministry, prophecy, and teaching.

With respect,

Rev. Dr. Glen B. Maiden

Testing the Spirits

1 John 4.1 [Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.](#)

Jeremiah 14:14

Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.

Jeremiah 23:16

Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.

[Jeremiah 29:8](#)

"For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.

[Matthew 7:15](#)

Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

[2 Peter 2:1](#)

Now there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies that even deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.

[John 8:17](#)

Even in your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.

[2 Corinthians 13:1](#)

This is the third time I am coming to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

--

Dr. Glen B. Maiden, BA, MTS, DMIN, CSAT-C

Notice of Confidentiality: This e-mail, and any attachments, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) and may contain privileged or confidential information. Any distribution, reading, copying or use of this communication and any attachments by anyone other than the addressee, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify me by e-mail (by replying to this message) or telephone [503-440-5532](tel:503-440-5532), and permanently destroy or delete the original and any copies or printouts of this e-mail and any attachments.

It is important to be aware that e-mail communication can be relatively easily accessed by unauthorized people and hence can compromise the privacy and confidentiality of such communication. E-mails, in particular, are vulnerable to such unauthorized access due to the fact that servers have unlimited and direct access to all e-mails that go through them. A non-encrypted e-mail, such as this, is even more vulnerable to unauthorized access. Please notify Dr. Glen B. Maiden, if you decide to avoid or limit, in any way, the use of e-mail. Unless I hear from you otherwise, I will continue to communicate with you via e-mail when necessary or appropriate. Please do not use e-mail for emergencies.

Report on Our Process

Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>
To: Glen Maiden <dr.glenmaiden@gmail.com>
Cc: Tom Bower <tom@surfingthenations.com>

Fri, Jul 1, 2016 at 6:08 PM

Dear Glen and Tom,

First, I'd like to reply to Glen's assessment that my references do not affirm gifts in the church of teaching or prophecy.

This is a true statement, but as it is limited to my references, it does not present a complete picture. The material on my website reflects these gifts. I have a clear message, articulated from scripture. If it does not conform to what the church teaches, then consider the Bible as a whole and ask yourself if a genuine prophetic gift is more likely to confirm what established religious authority is teaching, or to oppose it. The Christian church does not necessarily differ so much from ancient Jewish authority in this respect. Consider the Catholic church in the Middle Ages, the Southern Baptists who preached slavery prior to the Civil War, the churches today that preach sodomy and abortion. Glen's scripture quotations can be easily applied to all of them.

Go to www.freesoft.org and read "Alternate Reality", my discipleship blog. Read "Icarus' Wing", my novel, if you want. Nobody who takes the time to do this will conclude that I don't have a message or the gift of writing. The only question is whether you agree with it or not. The mainstream church does not agree, but that is not an indication that I am ungifted.

To reiterate what I'm already communicated to Glen - I have a message (the blog), an audience (STN), and the means to communicate it (the sign). All of this has been provided by God. I intend to move forward now with what God has provided.

On the other hand, I don't want to lose the opportunity to witness to you, Tom. Glen is back on the mainland, so can't participate in person anymore. My advice - just indicate to me that you'll take the time to meet with me within the next week, read the first two blog posts on Alternate Reality (these are the essays I provided to Glen), then sit down and discuss it with me.

Otherwise, I'll just go back out there with the sign on Saturday evening. It's the obvious way forward.

agape

brent

[Quoted text hidden]



Glen Maiden

Jul 3 (12 days ago) ☆



to me

I understand that last night went well without incident.

Very proud of you Brent, very mature.

Thank you for your kindness.

Praying for you today, sir.

Warmly,

G



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 4 (11 days ago) ☆



to Glen

Dear Glen,

Yes, well, I took the sign with me but ended up siting it face-down. I prayed all day about it; I'm sick of dealing with STN; I didn't want to be out there again with that sign, but again God seems to have shown me a way forward.

I'm writing an open letter to STN and will be handing out copies on the sidewalk later this week. I want to explain to the STNer's what's been going on for the last month, and as part of that I wish to publish our email correspondence. I'm not going to print it out, but rather have prepared a PDF (attached) and will include a link to it in my letter.

I've edited out a little bit of information (email addresses and phone numbers of the references) that I feel is confidential. Please let me know if you have any objection to publishing any of the material that remains.

agape



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

Letter to STN

Inbox x



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 7 (8 days ago) ☆

to Glen

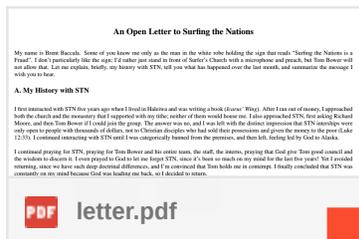
Dear Glen,

I'm attaching a draft of a letter that I intend to distribute at Surfer's Church this weekend.

I'm still fiddling with it, but please read the draft, with a particular view towards the question whether I have a prophetic message.

I think you have done Tom Bower a tremendous disservice by telling him what he wants to hear instead of what he needs to hear.

agape



Glen Maiden

Jul 8 (7 days ago) ☆

to me

Thanks Brent.

Still waiting for your character references.

Warmly and prayerfully,

G



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 8 (7 days ago) ☆

to Glen

Dear Glen,

Britt Johnston just told me that he's received no communication from you.

Please call me tomorrow, Glen. I left a voicemail earlier.

agape
brent



Glen Maiden

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆



to me

Please ask Britt to send me via email a recommendation for you. Thank you, Brent.



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

1.29 GB (8%) of 15 GB used
[Manage](#)

[Program Policies](#)
Powered by

Last account activity: 32 minutes ago
[Details](#)

**Glen Maiden**

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆

to me

While we wait for your references to come in, I thought we could reflect on your letter to STN.

Your first comment reflects on the theology of business and ministry .

Below you will find a Biblical theology of Paul's view of labor, supporting ministry through business, and his passion not to burden the church financially.

Let's reflect on these words about and from Paul.

In your letter I appreciated you mentioning Jesus. Thank you, Brent.

G

Paul's Ministry in Corinth

...²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit them, ³and he stayed and worked with them because they were tentmakers by trade, just as he was. ⁴Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks alike....

Berean Study Bible · [Download](#)

Cross References

Acts 20:34

You yourselves know that these hands of mine have ministered to my own needs and those of my companions.

1 Corinthians 4:12

We work hard with our own hands. When we are vilified, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;

1 Corinthians 9:12

If others partake of this right from you, shouldn't we share in it all the more? But we did not make use of this right. Instead, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:14

In the same way, the Lord has prescribed that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:15

But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that something

be done for me. Indeed, I would rather die than for anyone to nullify my boast.

[1 Corinthians 9:18](#)

What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not use up my rights in preaching it.

[2 Corinthians 11:7](#)

Was it a sin for me to humble myself in order to exalt you, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

[2 Corinthians 12:13](#)

In what way were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was not a burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

[1 Thessalonians 2:9](#)

Surely you recall, brothers, our labor and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

[1 Thessalonians 4:11](#)

and to aspire to live quietly, to attend to your own matters, and to work with your own hands, as we instructed you.

Bible

[Warning against Irresponsibility](#)

...⁹Not that we lack this right, but we wanted to offer ourselves as an example for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "If anyone is unwilling to work, he shall not eat." ¹¹Yet we hear that some of you are leading undisciplined lives and accomplishing nothing but being busybodies....

[Berean Study Bible](#) · [Download](#)

Cross References

[1 Thessalonians 3:4](#)

Indeed, when we were with you, we kept warning you that we would suffer persecution; and as you know, it has come to pass.

[1 Thessalonians 4:11](#)

and to aspire to live quietly, to attend to your own matters, and to work with your own hands, as we instructed you.



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

to Glen

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆



Glen,

Thank you for your reply. I'm tempted to comment, but you didn't comment much yourself, and only asked me to "reflect", which I have!

I've now posted the letter on my discipleship blog. Perhaps we could discuss it there. Bloggers always want comments, right?

agape



Glen Maiden

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆



to me

Yes sir, reflection is the deeper way.

Biblical theology (BT) is the truest form of study. BT examines the Gospel from Genesis through Revelation. Proof texting is the practice of cultists who take one scripture and interpret without context.

The example of Jesus in the Gospels is so very crucial to our narrative. The witness of Scripture in the Epistles is equally as inspired and authoritative.

The passages in review are a healthy balance to the conversation of STN. Jesus was single and celibate. He depended on the offerings of good people as led by the Holy Spirit. Luke 8.1. At the same time Scripture does not demand celibacy for all followers or the vow of poverty.

Paul too was a man who spent significant amount of time following the example of Jesus. Paul also worked as a tentmaker with Aquila. Paul was careful not to depend on his people to the point of compromising the Gospel message.

STN and their coffee shop has the same tenor and precedent as Paul's tentmaking story. I wonder if the concern you have does not more relate to the poor having access to coffee? What if we created a benevolent fund for people who cannot afford coffee to receive it pro bono. Or, perhaps as Paul says, "if you don't work, you don't eat." Perhaps an exchange of serving the poor for STN or some other blessing of labor and the result would be free coffee?

Would that address your concern?



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

My letter to STN

Inbox x



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆

to Tom, Richard, Glen

Gentlemen -

I hope this message find you well.

I plan to be at Surfer's Church this evening handing out a letter that I've written to the STN community as a whole. I'm attaching a copy. I'm sure you'll find plenty there to object to.

Please forgive the late notice. I'm not trying to surprise you with this, but I had to make a trip into town today as a favor to someone, plus I wanted to spend some more time in prayer considering this course of action. This certainly isn't easy for me. We're all accountable to God for our actions, and I ask you to forgive me, if you can, if my actions are not in accord with God's plans. On the other hand, please continue to consider in prayer if my words are true.

agate



Glen Maiden

Jul 9 (6 days ago) ☆

to me, Tom, Richard

Brent,

I cannot support your letter. It is false on so many levels. Brent, your disregard for truth astounds.

I call on you to repent and offer your most sincere apologies to all concerned.

Dr. Glen Maiden



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 10 (5 days ago) ☆

to Glen

Gentlemen,

Well, I decided to pray about it some more and I don't have the confirmation that I sought from God, so I held off on distributing the letter. Not sure exactly why, I'm just trying to be obedient to him.

On the other hand, the three of you now possess one of my clearest and must succinct pieces of writing. You entire claim, Glen, that I lack a gift of teaching or prophesy comes down to a single point

- you're totally opposed to what I'm preaching.

I know that I'm not qualified to preach or teach. Only he can qualify me, and that was the crux of my prayer last night.

I'd like to hear more about my "disregard for truth".

In the meantime, let's review one of Glen's most recent emails.

Biblical theology (BT) is the truest form of study. BT examines the Gospel from Genesis through Revelation. Proof texting is the practice of cultists who take one scripture and interpret without context.

Another practice of cultists is to silence all opposition so that only their interpretation of scripture is heard.

The example of Jesus in the Gospels is so very crucial to our narrative. The witness of Scripture in the Epistles is equally as inspired and authoritative.

Claiming that all scripture is equally inspired and authoritative is a common tactic used to refute Jesus Christ. I have a good friend of mine who is a polygamist. Can't really argue with that, can I? Not if the entire Bible is equally inspired and authoritative, right? He, of course, accuses me of not believing in the Bible! Why? Because I regard the words printed in red, the teachings of Christ, as the most authoritative words in scripture. That's why they're printed in red! Red letter editions were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't just come to die an atoning death on the cross. He also gave us teachings, and set us an example that we need to live by.

The passages in review are a healthy balance to the conversation of STN. Jesus was single and celibate. He depended on the offerings of good people as led by the Holy Spirit. Luke 8.1. At the same time Scripture does not demand celibacy for all followers or the vow of poverty.

Luke 12:33 and Luke 14:33 come very close to demanding just that of disciples. Of course, not all followers are disciples.

Paul too was a man who spent significant amount of time following the example of Jesus. Paul also worked as a tentmaker with Aquila. Paul was careful not to depend on his people to the point of compromising the Gospel message.

Yet, to our knowledge, Jesus didn't do that! Isn't that interesting? He didn't work as a carpenter to support his ministry, and he didn't teach his apostles to sell fish to support theirs. It wasn't because he had saved up a boodle, either. In the temple tax incident, why did he tell Peter to cast a line into the sea to retrieve a measly stater? It's because he was penniless, at least at that time.

What's the problem with working to support yourself? Well, can you do it without refusing goods or services to people who can't afford it? People who are penniless, like Christ was? Because they give to anyone who asks, like Christ taught?

STN and their coffee shop has the same tenor and precedent as Paul's tentmaking story. I wonder if the concern you have does not more relate to the poor having access to coffee? What if we created a benevolent fund for people who cannot afford coffee to receive it pro bono. Or, perhaps as Paul says, "if you don't work, you don't eat." Perhaps an exchange of serving the poor for STN or some other blessing of labor and the result would be free coffee?

So now we're proof texting one scripture. Of course, "if you don't work, you don't eat". I've spent each of the last two Sunday afternoons helping a man from my church who's been confined to a wheelchair for the last 34 years, and while he gives me enough money for coffee in the morning, and I thank him for it every time, it isn't even minimum wage. How dare you, you arrogant "senior pastor", to imply that people won't work, simply because they don't have money? I mean that in the most loving way, of course! The entire church preaches that Jesus died on the cross as a totally free gift, and now you want an exchange of labor for coffee? I'm forwarding this email to jchrist@kingdom.god

and suggesting that He revise His policy of free salvation to come in line with His church's theology of working to eat.

Would that address your concern?

It most certainly would not. I didn't come back to Wahiawa to give or receive free coffee. The problem with the coffee shop is that it implicitly teaches the youth that we don't have to obey Luke 6:30, Matthew 5:42, or Matthew 7:12. Nothing less than the entire Christian gospel, preached accurately to the youth at STN, will satisfy me.

agape



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

1.29 GB (8%) of 15 GB used
[Manage](#)

[Program Policies](#)
Powered by

Last account activity: 27 minutes ago
[Details](#)

Recommendation for Brent Baccala

Inbox x



Britton Johnston

2:09 pm (1 day ago) ☆

to dr.glenmaiden, bcc: me

Dear Dr. Maiden,

In response to your request for a recommendation on Brent Baccala, I offer the following:

Brent fulfills the scriptural characteristics you indicated quite satisfactorily -- except for the criteria related to household management, since he is celibate and has no household to speak of. He is strong in faith; he is the opposite of greedy, preferring poverty and sharing to any kind of self-enrichment. His knowledge of scripture is unusually strong.

As for his teaching skills: I know that he has taught professionally in high school for some years in the course of his life, both here in Anchorage (as a substitute) and in Mexico (full time). From time to time I have discussed mathematics with him, and I've found great pleasure in the clarity and sophistication of his explanations. To my knowledge, he does not have formal Bible training, but attends church and Bible study faithfully.

He is a man of strong will, which must be a great help to him as he lives out his commitment to Christ as a kind of protestant version of a mendicant friar. However, such strength of will can deprive his thinking of flexibility, which sometimes works to his detriment. This, and his anguish of soul are his two greatest weaknesses, in my opinion.

Brent has great compassion for "the least of these," and an abiding passion for a just world under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Hoping you find these thoughts helpful, I am

Yours Truly

Rev. Britton Johnston, M.Div., Ph.D.



Click here to [Reply](#), [Reply to all](#), or [Forward](#)

1.29 GB (8%) of 15 GB used
[Manage](#)

[Program Policies](#)
Powered by

Last account activity: 25 minutes ago
[Details](#)

Thank you for your response

Inbox x



Glen Maiden

Jul 13 (2 days ago) ☆

to me

Thank you for your mature response, Brent. Well done. Let's continue working through the issues as Jesus would with honor and respect.

"On the other hand, the three of you now possess one of my clearest and most succinct pieces of writing. You entire claim, Glen, that I lack a gift of teaching or prophesy comes down to a single point - you're totally opposed to what I'm preaching."

I believe you do have a passion for discipleship. Your response to the calling of trusting Jesus every day is exemplary. Well done sir.

I would be honored to assist you with teaching. I believe we are doing that right now. This is productive rich work.

I do not know you to reflect on your gifting.

Your references affirm your love for Jesus and your intellect for math. It sounds like you have a gift for teaching math. We are waiting for the affirmations on your other gifts. Judging is not part of our narrative. Jesus forbids it.

We are following the Biblical principle of "out of the mouths of 2 or 3 shall everything be established."

I am not opposed to the message of discipleship. I too teach this constantly.

We are defining the message of discipleship within the boundaries of Jesus' teaching and the Apostles with detail. This is the work of passionate men who care about the will of God.

I do feel you are angry with STN and are projecting their rejection in your message.

Your focus seems punitive rather than inspired.

Let's reaffirm. I believe in the message of discipleship, I believe you are called by God to follow Jesus in the manner you are. Your references validate your love for Him and your gifting in mathematics.

We are waiting for a reference to affirm your gifting. This is the vetting which the New Testament church engaged. Tom is required to protect his students. You would not want his job.

Let's tackle the next thing in your response.

Thank you once again for your mature response. Well done, sir.

Warmly,

G



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

Jul 14 (1 day ago) ☆

to Glen

Dear Glen,

I am tired of this process. This has been dragging out for a month now with no resolution in sight.

Endless discussion with no action. I am, however, old enough to approach this with a mature attitude.

You've latched onto this idea that "we are waiting for a reference to affirm your gifting" as an excuse to extend this interminably. You do not need such a reference. You are perfectly capable of ascertaining my gifting yourself. Let me summarize my message, to aid you.

Capitalism is an immoral philosophy. We're supposed to give to anyone who asks, not refuse to serve people who don't have money. When someone asks you for money, or food, or housing, or a ride, or just about any material thing, the loving response is "sure, no problem". For something like guns or alcohol, well, why would we have such things ourselves? For scarce resources, believers should work amongst themselves to manage them wisely, but not in disobedience to his commands that we should give even to thieves. Christians need to pray about their finances and manage them in obedience to God, but we have no business engaging in quid pro quo exchanges for money.

The majority of people live in sin. We should not seek to emulate them. Those who live the way Jesus lived will be hated and persecuted. Prosperity is a big lure, bigger than sex, and needs to be seen as such. God's going to provide us what we need to carry out his work. For most people, this means poverty. Those of us called into positions of responsibility are going to have more resources at our disposal, but those resources are to be used to advance his goals, not ours. If I had listened to God better when I was younger, I'd probably be leading software development teams and be responsible for those people in much the same way that Tom Bower is responsible for STN, but the software would still be published for free.

Democracy is not a cooperative system of government. It's based on the premise that one group of people, the majority, have the right to rule over everyone else. Opposition to majority rule is largely silenced, using the kinds of tactics that Tom Bower has deployed to silence me, although we haven't reached the point where I'm sitting in a prison cell, and for that I am grateful. It is still very difficult to speak effectively against the majority, or to organize against them.

The church is very weak. It's largely been reduced to Sunday worship and Wednesday Bible study. We're taught to be part time Christians who spend much of our time living in a worldly way so that we can partake in the prosperity. We need to turn every aspect of our lives over to Christ. Ideally, we should be doing everything through prayer, and working in worldly organizations where you don't need to obey God and you don't pray about your decisions is a big problem that needs to be confronted head on, primarily by building Christian organizations to replace the worldly ones. Christian schools, Christian restaurants (soup kitchens), Christian supermarkets (food banks), Christian housing, Christian transportation, Christian technology - all free. Managed by prayer; no atheist Marxism; no capitalist quid pro quo.

Tom Bower is running a business. He teaches the youth that you give so much but no more, take care of yourself economically, and live a comfortable life. What the youth need to hear is that you sell your worldly possessions, give the money to the poor, and turn your whole life over to God. Stop worrying about how to make a living. Don't hold back generosity out of fear that you'll be homeless and hungry. Pray to God every day for his guidance and his provisioning. Use our political freedoms to organize Christian opposition to secular, capitalist leadership. Tom's determined to silence that message.

I've pinged Britt Johnston again, and he's now sent you a reference. If you want one from Saul Sliman, you'll have to call him and communicate with him, as he doesn't use email.

You don't need this, however. What I've just written resonates with you one way or another. You either accept it or you reject it. I suspect that you mostly reject it, and that's why none of my references will ever quite "affirm my gifting". This will be your excuse for silencing the message that God has given me to preach. Now, on the one hand, God wouldn't have provided me the message without providing me the means to deliver it, so you can only drag this out for as long as I let you. On the other hand, you are responsible for the assessment that you are providing to Tom Bower, and you've had ample time to make that assessment.

God has provided me what I need to deal with this situation. I need to make sure that what I'm doing is in line with his plan, and that's why that letter needed to be revised. I'm still working on it, but I want

to hit "send" on this email today.

I expect to be back out there Saturday evening, the Lord willing, passing out the revised letters.

agape



Glen Maiden

5:29 PM (23 hours ago) ☆



to Tom, me

If you wish to move forward then, let's honor your desire.

Here are the points I agree with in your narrative:

Capitalism is based on greed. Yes sir. I agree.

You are too kind to say "most" people. All have sinned and fallen short.

You are right to say the church is weak, but the church is you, and it is me, as strong as we are.

God has provided for you, because He loves you.

You are wrong to say STN participates in capitalism. If that were so, they would offer shares with stockholders. The staff and students live modestly raising their own support. Did you know that they at times go without pay? STN is not a for profit business. You are wrong. Paul the apostle was a tent maker. Peter was a professional fisherman. The New Testament Church was a community of laborers, parents, children, and single people. Brent, the evangelists lived by faith daily, but the first century church was not living in a vow of poverty. Soldiers followed Jesus and he did not ask them to quit the military, politicians, and business people followed Jesus but maintained the exhortation, "If you don't work, you don't eat."

You are wrong to say that we live in a democracy. We live in a republic and I agree with you, it is a corrupt system for which the only hope is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no effective democracy on the planet.

You are wrong to say that Tom Bauer has silenced you. He is protecting his students from you. The protection order is not because of your message, it is because his students are not safe around you and you make them feel fearful.

You are wrong that ministry is free or should be free. You are wrong, Brent. It has never been without offerings and financial support from faithful people. You are deceived. The Old Testament is built on the sacrificial system and support of the priesthood, Paul received offerings from the Galatians, Jesus from the women of Luke 8, the church of Jerusalem received support from the churches of Asia Minor. Brent, you are wrong, and promoting falsehood.

You are correct that I do connect with your message of discipleship with one caveat. The truth of God's word must be honored, all of it, not only the selections of personal preference or conviction.

Regarding your references:

You have no references validating your ministry or call to preach. I am so very sorry.

The 3 references see you as sincere and compassionate. They applaud your commitment.

None affirm your calling to preach or spiritual gifting in the church as leader or teacher.

All 3 affirm your mathematics gifts. Once again, this is your gift set. How can you use this to glorify God? I would be honored to assist you.

My humble apologies, I know you want very much to preach.

You are completely qualified to disciple a friend or a small group. You are not qualified, gifted, or trained to teach in the church. Once again, my apologies.

Please consider why your top references have not endorsed your gifting in ministry.

Please do not quit following Jesus. Love Him, pray, serve, give to the poor. You are to be commended for your vow of poverty and focus.

Once again, there are not 2 or 3 witnesses to affirm your gifting or calling to preach in the church. You have no training to teach the word, you are completely qualified to follow Jesus.

My apologies I know you want much more that does not belong to you.

If that status changes, let's continue the dialogue.

I appreciate you using the word, mature. I pray this is the case.

If you would like to continue to build your foundation on Jesus and His word, I will be honored to serve you and assist you in building a community of support and theology consistent with Jesus and the first century church.

I too, along with you, will send a letter to Surfing the Nations staff and students with my assessment.

With respect,

Dr. Glen Maiden



Brent W. Baccala <cosine@freesoft.org>

6:34 PM (22 hours ago) ☆



to Glen, Tom

Dear Glen,

I agree with a lot of what you wrote. A few of the points, like my position regarding money and work, we've discussed enough that although we disagree, there hardly seems any more to say. There are two points here that I want to address.

First, why don't my references endorse a gifting in ministry? I certainly seem to have gifts in computers and mathematics, but for some reason God seems to have selected me to lead a political opposition (Occupy) four years ago. At this I failed miserably, and it was my fault, because God gave me everything I needed to lead it, but I didn't listen to him and fell flat on my face. We haven't really discussed this, but perhaps we should. Go to my blog and read "My Confession", at least the first part of it.

On one hand, I'm trying to be real careful here not to project my failure with Occupy and look to STN for a chance to rebuild what I lost. That would be completely inappropriate, unless it's God's plan, of course. That's why I haven't brought it up with you before. Yet that gifting is real, and is more towards public speaking and political leadership than teaching in the church, per se.

On the other hand, why did he chose me to lead Occupy? I don't know. I was (almost) content to muddle along with my math and my computers, but then he showed me that he had something bigger in mind. Also, you should go to my discipleship blog and read "Bicycling Across America", the oldest thing on there, from 1993. Notice in particular what I did at the end of the bike trip. I ran away from God... for my math and computers! I certainly regret the decision, and have repented of it, but take those endorsements of my gifting for math with a grain of salt. God's had other plans for me, plans

that I've resisted, for years.

Also, I'd like to discuss this idea that the trespass order "is not because of your message, it is because his students are not safe around you and you make them feel fearful." That trespass order is a direct result of me sitting in front of STN with a sign. I don't believe that Tom Bower is not trying to silence my message. I simply don't believe it.

I know that I can be blunt and abrasive. Tom certainly doesn't appreciate my forthright style of speech, and I don't like his vague evasiveness. I know that a lot of people don't like me because of that kind of thing, and I'm sure that some feel fearful, but that's just how they feel. Yet you go farther, Glen. You actually state that his students are not safe around me. Why?

agape



Click here to [Reply](#), [Reply to all](#), or [Forward](#)

1.29 GB (8%) of 15 GB used
[Manage](#)

[Program Policies](#)
Powered by

Last account activity: 0 minutes ago
[Details](#)