

# Alleluia

## Dove

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## “All In” Alleluia Style 2017

By Chuck Hornsby



There are three elements that I want to address as we examine the title for this Dove article: 1) All In, 2) Alleluia Style and 3) 2017. I also want to address the idea of sustainability. As I write it, I have prayed to be challenging without having an edge. The article is meant to lead each of us to self-examination. As far as I know, none of us has arrived at the mystical place called “all in”, but each of us must be striving to do so.

“All in” has become a popular term because of a type of poker game called Texas Hold 'em. In the game at some point, a player will go “all in”, meaning they will risk all of their chips (money) on the hand they are holding. They may have a very good hand or they may be bluffing, but they put all they have at risk. They hold nothing back.

In our early days, going “all in” meant total sharing of goods; it meant living in Faith Village homes some of which had no air conditioning to ease the Georgia summer. It meant rats and roaches. It meant work parties all day every Saturday and often a few more during week nights. It meant a level

of Christian simplicity that is hard to even imagine in 2017. It meant that we firmly believed that our time and our money was not our own, and we made decisions based on that belief. The understanding of what it meant to live under the Lordship of Jesus was that we would hold nothing back. We would be “all in” no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the inconvenience, and no matter our preferences. We often failed miserably at doing it, but we all believed we should be “all in” and we all tried.

Lest you fear that I am recommending going back to the 70's to reproduce and relive our early experiences, notice that the article is entitled All In Alleluia Style 2017. We cannot, nor should we, go back. We cannot keep playing the old hand. A new hand has been dealt. Some of us old timers hold on to the old days and judge the new generation on the old standards. Though I, for one, have no desire to go back and live without air conditioning. The issue that faces us is not how to be what we were, but how can we be “all in” with all that means in 2017 and beyond.

I talked recently to a senior pastoral leader over the North American portion of the Sword of the Spirit Community. I was exploring the issue of commitment as it was currently being lived out in this generation with the level of commitment in the founding generation. He said, “I don't know if the overall level of commitment is any different, but there seem to be a lot less people who are willing to go ‘all in,’ and community cannot be sustained unless there are a significant number of people who are ‘all in.’”

All of the founding generation is getting older. Many are retiring and all are tiring. They don't have as much money or energy as they once had. They may still be “all in,” but they have less resources. If our community is going to be sustained and keep the identity of the founding generation, the younger members are going to have to be “all in.” And this means time, money, service and sacrifice. We can become a different community with a lower level of commitment

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# “All In” for Living a Radical Lifestyle

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without much change, but I am not sure anyone would like the results. We put tremendous resources into having a school. We could decide to be a community without a school, which would allow us to remain a community without putting in as many resources, but would our younger members really want to be here if our school wasn't part of the equation? We could



A word delivered by Chuck Hornsby at the January 5, 2017 Prayer Meeting:

*I have made you strong and well-tuned, but you are also fragile and in need of maintenance. You cannot be who I have called you to be unless there is a high level of commitment and a large number of people who are all in! All in to living under my Lordship and all in to making the sacrifices necessary to build this Alleluia life. You are not strong enough to go forward on old sacrifices; new sacrifices are needed. Who will be the founder, the stalwart, the all in for the next forty years? You cannot sustain this life on a minimal or even an average commitment. Your life is only sustainable if you are all in!*

put lesser resources into making a way of life, but if we do, we will not carry on the charisma that Alleluia represents. Community, Alleluia style, is based on a high level of commitment and sacrifice. It is based on giving up some good things (Christian simplicity) so we can have greater things. We share a life that is rare in the world today, and if I am even half right about what lies ahead, our way of life will be more important if we are to raise up our families in an increasingly hostile environment to Christian values.

I believe that some (most?) of the younger generation see the community and the school primarily as a support system for raising their family, and that is a little different from the founding generation who saw (and some of the younger generation who see) community as a resource for living a radical Christian life. Both are essential, but if supporting our family is the primary goal, then we have to remember that if we don't feed the cow, the calf dies. If our commitment to community in how we use our time and money isn't enough, the very thing we are depending on for support will not be sustainable. I am not casting stones. It is simply that the handwriting is on the wall. If we do not stir up an "all in" mentality with its necessary sacrifices, our community, as we know it, is not sustainable.

In the sidebars are two prophetic words. The one by me was delivered at the last prayer meeting. The one by Rita O'Keefe was sent to the office shortly thereafter. Please read them and reflect on them along with this article.

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A word received by Rita O'Keefe during her prayer watch on January 8, 2017:

On my prayer watch today, I felt the Lord wanted us to get back to basics this year. Back to subsidiarity and solidarity. Let relationships be the focus.

*Grow my people, grow. Use the rich soil I've planted you in to grow. I've given you what you need to nourish the seeds that have been planted. I've instructed you and called you on through your teachings. I've put you in close proximity to one another so that you can grow together toward me. Foster those relationships. Use all I've given you. Be a people continually. That is how I see you and that is how I want to continue to see you. That is your witness to this generation — to be many doing all you can for yourselves and yet being one people for me. Respect and foster your relationships. Look inside your hearts and see where you've turned your back on this call to be a people. Turn back to me. Build Alleluia. Build what I've called you to build — each family caring for itself and yet one with the rest. No one left behind! Let your love for one another be real because this is what I've called you to give your life to build. Love!*

# Without Sacrifice You Cannot Have A Movement



By Paul V. Balducci

**I was listening** to a radio talk show host recently lament the state of the civil rights movement. He noted the younger generation does not understand the sacrifices that were required to achieve success in the civil rights movement in the 1950's and 60's. The sacrifices that were made fueled the civil rights movement and led to landmark legislation and legal precedent that was nothing short of revolutionary. The radio host noted, "without sacrifice you cannot have a movement." He observed that despite the great achievements of the civil rights movement, the struggle to overcome the various forms of racism continues. He questioned whether progress could be achieved without people willing to make sacrifices necessary to sustain the movement.

**His remarks quickly** led me to consider what sacrifices I was making, or was willing to make, to further the movement that I, at least outwardly, profess to support. I thought about the first Full Covenant members who put everything at risk in order to support a movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Many others that joined Alleluia also made sacrifices, completely uprooting their lives, sacrificing career, family, familiar comforts and security to embrace a movement of the Holy Spirit, building covenant community. I wondered, would I make the same sacrifice to support a movement of the Holy Spirit? Does my lack of sacrifice contribute to the stagnation of growth in covenant community?

**This idea of** sacrifice surfaced again as I stumbled across a speech by Frederick Douglass, in which he stated, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." He remarked, "Although it was appreciated and necessary to have the support of whites in the

North in the fight for freedom against slavery, there would be no progress without the slaves themselves being willing to risk their own lives as well, to sacrifice themselves for the cause." As I applied his speech to my own life, again I see it is not enough for me to enjoy the fruit of the sacrifices of others. In order for me to support the movement of the Holy Spirit, I must be willing to sacrifice myself.

**Later, I recalled** an image I had seen the first day I arrived in Rome on June 6, 2012. As we walked, Rachel and I came upon St. Andrew's Church at Quirinal Hill, a beautiful example of Baroque architecture designed and built by Bernini. Over the main altar, there is a painting of the Martyrdom of St. Andrew that brilliantly illustrates the meaning of sacrifice.

**First of all,** St. Andrew requested the cross be turned sideways since he thought himself unworthy of being crucified in the same way as our Lord. St. Andrew is shown tied to two poles crossed in the form of an X. He is still alive and not far above eye level with his executioners. You can sense the movement and action in this scene as St. Andrew is bracing himself with his legs, his hands and face raised towards heaven. The movement in the painting looks to me like St. Andrew is "aggressively sacrificing" himself for the Lord. What is the point of such a sacrifice?

**In this church,** St. Andrew's face and arms point upwards to a dome with the dove of the Holy Spirit leading St. Andrew to heaven. The sacrifices we make for the Lord lead us to the Holy Spirit and ultimately to heaven. Even the building of this church required sacrifice.

The Jesuits did not want a grand church built on their property, not

because they embraced austerity, but because they feared the money would run out before the project could be completed if the church was too grand. Bernini had high standards, as you can imagine, and construction began with the help of a wealthy patron. Unfortunately, the patron died before the church was completed and his heir, a young prince, refused to be responsible for the debt. The young prince later relented and sacrificed much of the inheritance so the church could be completed.

**The fruit that** comes from sacrifice is undeniable. Sacrifice also comes in many forms. What sacrifices can I make to further the movement of the Holy Spirit, and specifically the growth of our community? Am I willing to be like St. Andrew and hold nothing back, or will I carefully measure my contribution, giving only to the point at which I am comfortable?

**This is the question** each of us must answer for ourselves. If I see Jack McAdams on my caller ID, I am pretty sure he is not calling to offer late season tomatoes to share. Do I take that call looking for someone to host visitors to our community? This is a small example of sacrifice, giving of ourselves when it costs a little more than we want to give.

**For others,** sacrifice may mean changing our attitudes about aspects of community life. Rather than ignore or only marginally comply with an aspect of life we hold in common or a community policy, why not embrace it to the fullest? The more difficult it is to accept or live out a policy, an agreement, a relationship, or a call to service, the more fruitful and significant our sacrifice will be in our personal life and in the life of our community as a whole.

# Alleluia InReach Ministry

By Luc Ceyskens

**Many of us** have heard our Elders talk about how Alleluia Community is more like an organism than an organization. We are a people, God's people. We are pilgrims on our way to our heavenly home. God loves us and asks different things from each of us on our way together.

As the song goes, "They will know us by our love, by our love....", while we move forward, following the call we all received, we love one another. And it is that love, which can be expressed in a thousand different actions and words. These actions and words are noticed and experienced by others, inside and outside our body, and make them stop and recognize there is something here, something different. In 2016, they came from all over the world to experience, to feel, to see and to pray. God is with us.....

**But the organism** is made up of ordinary people, humans each with their own strengths and weaknesses. God seems to have an eye for the weak and vulnerable. In the first place, so none of us can take any credit for what is happening, but also so we would need each other; in particular, we need one another's love to build up, exhort, assist, educate and help one another, to mention just a few. This is a never ending process and, to assist in this process, our Elders called into being a group of community members to help/assist and prepare us for the daily challenges of life, in particular, when some of us receive the grace to grow older on our way to the heavenly Jerusalem.

And so the InReach Team came into being: A group of people who work behind the scenes, assisting the Elders and Support Group Heads with issues which pop up in the SG or Community which require support or involvement beyond the reach of the SG.

**Inreach provides information** on specific topics of interest to certain groups in our Alleluia Body. For example, we are very grateful for the series of classes Cathy Green organized on a variety of topics concerning growing older. And the Golden Life Center was another example of providing a venue to assist our com-

mon life as a community. We will use this article to explain what happened with the Golden Life Center. From its inception, the GLC had the following three goals, which we share here from the Nov 23, 2005 Dove-Article:

1. To be a gathering area, where people can come together to do stuff or just to hang out and what we call so often "build family by wasting time together."

2. To be a coordination/information center for our brothers and sisters who live independently but could use some assistance to remain in their homes.

3. If the need arises, the home could become a home for those of us who, for whatever reason, have no place to stay in our Community.

**In July 2006**, the GLC opened its doors, starting with a focus on the first two goals. Many people from different support groups served at the Center, and many from within or even outside the community came to play cards, follow a Bible or book study, participated in noon prayer, enjoyed a nice luncheon, and some even lived at the home. We will be forever thankful for the many years Georgia Hazelwood gave to make the Center a true home for all who came through the door.

**Still, God kept** on prompting us to towards the third goal, that the home would be needed as a personal care home. For that reason, we moved forward to obtain an official license to allow us to run the home as a government licensed Personal Care Home. The Lord kept on guiding us to move forward, and our sister, Evelyn Hamilton, became the spark to test out the whole idea of running the GLC as a licensed Personal Care Home (PCH). We felt directed to move the phase 1 and 2 activities into the O'Brien Center. Plans were drawn up to remodel the O'Brien Center, while Inreach worked on staffing the PCH. Step-by-step, under headship and with careful testing of the promptings, we moved forward, till the Lord showed us, through clear obstacles of staffing and government requirements, that He wants us to remain His People and not an organization. Therefore, the Golden Life Center was cancelled and the license/permit for the PCH was returned to the State of Georgia, and our sister, Evelyn, was allowed to move into the Ceyskens' household as a household member.

While we were preparing the Golden

Life Center to be a PCH, the biweekly noon prayers moved to, and still is held at the Hornsby's home, and the card games moved to the Molens' home. In the meantime, it was decided to delay the remodeling of the O'Brien Center till after the School Gym renovations are completed and the Lord shows us again His next move and we have the grace to recognize it and move forward. Please do not hesitate to let us know if the Holy Spirit prompts you regarding this subject, or if you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you.

**Meanwhile, the Elders** asked the InReach Team to survey Community members regarding "Senior Needs/Assets Assessment" topics. We received 144 completed surveys from our adult members, and although we are well aware that any interpretation of statistical data can be very tricky, we dare to say, "God is good. Yes, we have an awesome God." Our Community is well, alive and seems, in general, to be in good physical and financial health, and above all has a generous heart! Yes, there are areas of need, but there is a majority who are ready to help their sisters and brothers. It really showed that we are a people, and there is a majority who are actively working on being well prepared for growing older. Yes, we can learn more from our widows. They clearly set the tone and give the example. And yes, we love the zeal and examples our younger members (those below 40) give us so that those of us who have not prepared ourselves well, hopefully grab the example of the young, our singles and widows, to take the necessary steps to prepare, or at least talk about these issues with their family, older woman or SGH.

It is really good to be a part of God's people. It is also very good to know that God is our guide on our daily road towards Him. We admit it is not always easy to follow the zig-zag ways of our Lord, but we know He knows best, and even with all the valleys and hills, with all the sudden course changes, we do not want any other person guiding us. And the InReach Team is honored and humbled to work behind the scenes to help us, God's people, to stay on track to follow our Lord and Savior.

**The InReach Team members:** Karen White, Nancy London, Liz Byrne, Wayne Rose, Kurt Eyrich, Bill Conkright, Bob Nestor, Bob Garrett and Luc Ceyskens