

# The Christian Chiropractor

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Charles A. JangDhari, D.C.  
Lancaster, PA

## *Choosing Between Food and the Will of God*

*Not a new diet!*

Charles JangDhari, D.C.

Returning to the States and starting a practice again forces me to focus on “food.” I am faced with finding patients, advertising, and taking practice management courses. Many of these courses claim to be “Christian” but are primarily centered on showing one how to make money for one’s own self-fulfillment. Is this what I am now supposed to do? After ten years in other cultures working as a health care provider and through my example of love, compassion, and caring, telling and showing others who Jesus is, am I now to live life running after the American dream? I found a partial answer to this question during my meditations on Jesus, the Samaritan woman and the disciples.

Jesus had just finished talking with a Samaritan woman when His disciples arrived. They had gone to look for food because everybody was hungry after a long day of travel. “*Rabbi eat something,*” they said to Him. Jesus answered, “*I have food to eat that you know nothing about.*” Following this, the disciples began to wonder if the Samaritan had given Him something to eat. Why did Jesus answer them the way He did and what does it mean for me today? In the minds of the disciples, they were going about doing the work they thought was important, which, at that moment, was finding food and providing for the group. Now it seemed that Jesus was chastising them for doing what He had sent them to do. Was that fair? I realized, Jesus wanted them to re-focus and see that for Him it was more important to do the Father’s will, “*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.*” I was challenged with this concept - this idea of making “*my food*” to do the will of Jesus, who wanted to finish the work of God.

Currently, I am looking for food for this moment’s need. I understand that food for the here and now is important, and yet Jesus, by His example, showed me that I have to make choices. When the Samaritan woman came to Him and offered Him a drink, He made a choice to talk to her about herself and what was missing in her life, not what He needed at that moment. He was also telling the disciples, and you and me, that we must also make a choice of seeking after our food or seeking to finish His work. Are some of you facing the same question during your daily practice as I am? Doing God’s will or looking for food?

Jesus went on to explain what the will of the Father was: “*Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life...I have sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.*”(John 4:35-38) I was compelled by these words to apply and concentrate my strength and energy on reaping the harvest, to make my work, alongside many others, bringing in the harvest. As I do this, will the

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**THE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHIROPRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION**

2550 Stover, B-102  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
80525-4642

1-800-999-1970  
(970) 482-1404  
Fax (970) 482-1538  
Web Site: [www.christianchiropractors.org](http://www.christianchiropractors.org)

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*Choosing between Food & God's Will, continued,*

need to find food for the moment go away? Will some supernatural event occur that will rain monetary blessings in my life? As I think of these questions, a story I once heard came to my mind. In 1978, a hotel in Chicago burned down in 42 minutes. Because it was 2:00 a.m., 95 percent of the people staying there died. Imagine I am one of the guests in the hotel and about two o'clock I wake up smelling smoke. I don't know where the smoke is coming from, but I don't want to wake anybody up just in case nothing is wrong. I get out of bed to look. I find out the smoke is coming from a fire in the basement of the hotel. I start running out of the building to save myself. As I am leaving the building God taps me on the shoulder and asks about the other people. My conscience is aroused, and I decide to turn around and save as many people as I can. I run to the first door and knock, yelling at the top of my lungs, "Wake up! Wake up! The building is on fire!" No one answers. I knock again saying, "Wake up! Wake up! The building is on fire!" Finally, a voice comes from inside the room saying, "Prove it." Well, I think to myself, "I am intelligent; I can prove it." Yet, at the same time, another 5 minutes have gone by, and the longer I stay trying to prove the hotel is on fire the more people will die.

I don't have time to prove to him that the building is on fire, and so, because of his unbelief, he may perish. I leave his door and go to the next. I begin yelling the same thing, but the person in this room has the television on too loud and doesn't respond. He cannot hear because he is occupied with something else. He too may perish because he is busy. I go to the next door and knock and yell, and someone comes to the door. He understands my message and runs out of his room to help me wake as many people as we can. We are running from room to room, waking people and getting them to help wake up others, saving as many lives as we can before the fire burns down the hotel. The analogy in this story is similar to how I see my job at this time.

Fortunately, you and I are more aware than the average person of the need for chiropractic care among the world's people, and, through the act of serving the needy, we can sit and talk to them about the life-changing power of Christ. People are "burning up" in many countries without knowing about Christ or seeing His workers. We can use our profession as chiropractors to become harvesters, going from room to room waking people because of our love and the love of Christ.

Does the Holy Spirit have to prove to you that this is His work for you? Your answer might be, "I am involved in building a practice, raising a family, or doing good deeds in my neighborhood. There is so much to do here among my neighbors." Perhaps so, but I can almost guarantee you that the majority of the people in your sphere of influence have already heard the Gospel, and most of what you are doing is trying to prove to them that their world is on fire. Just look around your town and see dozens of chiropractors all competing for the same patients or believers presenting the Gospel to people who

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have heard the message hundreds of times.

In Jamaica, I was one of two chiropractors on the whole island, and my harvesting resulted in a few open doors. One person in particular contacted me a few weeks ago. David Forster, who is about 30 years old, called me from Jamaica. I first met David when he was living at Fairmont Boys Home, which could not really be called a home, but a place where abandoned boys could get a meal and a place to sleep. I was introduced to this facility on my first mission trip with the Christian Chiropractors Association. When my family and I moved to Jamaica, we made it a point to have church services at the Home on Sundays. David attached himself to us, and I started to disciple him. I would invite him to the house for meals, give him odd jobs, and spend time with him. He was a difficult boy, always arguing with me about how to do a job, not interested in what I had to say about following Christ, and antagonizing my daughters by teasing them that they did not know what life was really like. In spite of all this, he loved us and we loved him.

After leaving Jamaica, we didn't hear from him. When we returned from Poland to the States, we got a call from a woman named Annette. She said, "*I am David's baby's mother. David is in prison in England, and he told me to call and tell you.*" He had been smuggling drugs into England and got caught. I got his number and called him in prison. We spoke for a while, and he explained how this time in prison allowed him to think about all the things we did for him and the love we showed as a family. He now understood what I was saying. We kept in contact until he was deported back to Jamaica.

David called me recently to thank me for coming to Jamaica and showing him what it is to be a man, for loving and caring for him even when he

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was in difficulty, and to tell me he loved me. He is now married, working and attending church. Life is not easy, but he is on his way. His words made me realize how short the time is to tell others about Jesus.

I feel part of my job is to motivate chiropractors to go on short-term outreach trips. Make it a priority; forget about that vacation and go to India, Poland, Honduras, Jamaica with a team. Jesus is telling us the same thing He told the disciples, "*Stop searching for what you want to eat and make your work My work by finishing the work of the Father.*"