



ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 9062
MOBILE, AL 36691



STRIVING TO DO
GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

EDLACYMINISTRIES@CS.COM

(251) 660-8942

(251) 423-3528

WWW.EDLACYMINISTRIES.ORG

MARCH 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 1 Peter 3:14b-15, we find this mandate to each disciple of Jesus. "...And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you; with meekness and fear." Many of us face a certain fear and consternation, when we witness to an unconverted person who lives within our sphere of influence. We have all experienced that personal apprehension and anxiety, as we seek to proclaim the "bad news and the good news" to those whom we long to see converted to Christ. We live in a world of sinners who love the darkness of their self-centered lives and hate the light of a 'Christ-centered life'. And yet, each of us are commanded to be light in the midst of that darkness, both through the life which we live and the message which we proclaim. We are given a command from our King, to take opportunities and make opportunities to give an answer for 'our steadfast confidence of eternal life'. And we are well aware that the one and only answer is found in the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Please notice that Peter is not speaking to pastors, when He calls us to be faithful witnesses in the midst of a "light hating and darkness loving" world. He is speaking to every born again follower of Jesus Christ. He begins by saying do not fear the possible negative reactions and intimidation of sinners. We must not be afraid of how others may respond to us. For even if we suffer verbal persecution or social alienation for the Gospel's sake, we are blessed by the Lord our God. Instead of fearing men, we must reverence the Lord in our hearts. Everyday that we live within our sphere of influence, we have a personal and practical choice to make. Are we going to fear men and their potential reactions and responses to our gospel witness? Or are we going to possess a holy fear of our Lord Jesus Christ and be ready to give an answer? We must always regard the displeasure of God as more fearful, than the prospect of being verbally or socially persecuted by sinners. Our Lord and Savior powerfully declared this sobering truth in Matthew 10:28, "And do not fear those who can kill the body but are unable to kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell". If you pay careful attention to this verse, you will find that our Lord was speaking to His disciples, when He made this startling statement.

However you might think, "Ed, if I am a courageous and compassionate witness for Jesus, it will expose me to the verbal assaults of those sinners"! Dear disciple, Peter has already promised us that if we are persecuted for Jesus' sake, we are blessed! He is certainly reiterating the teaching of our Lord Jesus in the beatitudes, when He says, "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in heaven is great". The unconverted world was extremely hostile toward our Lord; consequently, if we publicly identify with Christ and fearlessly proclaim Jesus as Lord, there's always the possibility that the world will be hostile toward us - (John 15:18-20). But God has left us here to be His ministers of reconciliation toward those who live within our circle of influence.

Hence, how do we faithfully carry out this great mission of being ardent ambassadors for our Lord Jesus Christ? Well, Peter continues on with this imperative to every follower of Jesus, by calling on us to "sanctify the Lord in your hearts". Our Savior has bought the sovereign right to be Lord of every compartment of our lives. We must sanctify 'Jesus as our Commander' in the inner core of our being. (Continued on next page)

One essential meaning of this word 'sanctify' is directing us to personally and purposefully set apart our lives unto the agendas of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, we are fully aware that our Lord's great commission is a major part of His agenda for our lives. The apostle is actually echoing that great commission in the remainder of this passage. For Peter says, "Always be ready...". He is saying that we must be willing and available to proclaim His saving message. However, being willing and available is not enough to fulfill this mission. We must also be equipped for this vital mission. And what is the task? He reminds us of the mission with these words, "to give an answer to every man". He is calling on each one of us to be able to articulate a 'Jesus-centered Gospel message' of reconciliation; and to herald that message lovingly, humbly and biblically! God will give us open doors to declare His glorious gospel, if we will simply trust Him. To fear the possible response of sinners is to distrust and displease God. Consequently, we must reverence our Lord Jesus in our heart of hearts. Each of us must personally embrace the truth that, to distrust and displease our Lord is far more frightening than anything a lost sinner can say or do to us. Oh, may each one of us fear God and not men. May we all be ready, willing, available and equipped to give an answer concerning the Person of Jesus; the sinfulness of sinners; the glorious work of Jesus; and the conditions of our King, by which a person can enter into a saving union with Him!



HYDERABAD, INDIA CHRIST-CENTERED EVANGELISM CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS

The year of 2016 began with our Lord gracing me with the opportunity to teach my workbook entitled, 'Christ-centered Evangelism', to 100 pastors in the capital city of the state of Telangana, which is called Hyderabad, India. Telangana is one of the 29 states within the vast nation of India. These precious pastors travelled from as far as 300 kilometers, to give a week of their time to study the word of God, concerning this essential theme of biblical evangelism. This means that the workbook was translated into its 9th language for this conference! I was well aware that there are certain forces, within the government and religious circles of India, who could easily have attempted to disrupt this conference. As a matter of fact, there were multiple attacks of persecution against Christian pastors and churches, which were occurring simultaneously in other cities, even as I was teaching this group of spiritual leaders. For this reason, I did not want to give the specific logistics of the conference in advance.

The Spirit of God graced all of us with an awesome 'touch of a reformation revival', in these precious days! These pastors were so hungry, so teachable and so quick to repent. The Spirit of Truth revealed areas of their evangelism where they needed to be personal repentance and reformation in their methods and their message! You may be surprised to know that there are MANY unbiblical traditions, techniques and tactics that have infiltrated the evangelical churches in India, concerning both the methods and the message of biblical evangelism. The 'Christ-centered Evangelism' study continually calls these leaders to return fully to the instructional manual, for the purpose of "Doing God's work; God's way; for God's glory". It was astounding to hear that many of the pastors were staying up ALL NIGHT, (for the first couple of nights), as they wrestled with the realization that they had been using unbiblical, man-invented methods and even felt-need centered messages, to attempt to carry out God's great mission. And yet, they were absolutely focused and attentive everyday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., as I taught these truths. I am so thankful to say that, 'they searched the scriptures', to discover if what they were hearing was biblical; then, having seen that it was biblical, they were publicly repenting of attempting to do God's work in man-concocted schemes and strategies and felt-need centered messages!

I want to praise our awesome God for His mighty illuminating work in their hearts, their minds, their lives and their evangelism. It was absolutely glorious to teach these life-transforming truths and to personally witness the Holy Spirit's powerful illumination and renovation in their lives. I am already hearing reports that there is "much fruit that remains", as these pastors return to their various churches and multiply these truths in the lives of their church members. As always, God supplied the funds to feed these pastors 3 meals a day; pay for their workbooks; pay for their bus tickets; give them a place to stay; as well as cover all of the other possible expenses for this conference.

However friends, God supplies these needs through brothers and sisters in Christ, who joyfully and sometimes sacrificially give for the purpose of supplying all of the various aspects for these international conferences. My passion has always been to pay for all of the possible expenses that a pastor may need to attend a conference like this. These international pastors and church planters live on very little income. In view of this, we only ask that the pastor give of his time to come under the truths of God's Word! I truly believe that foreign missions is 'far more than only sending people to other nations'. On the contrary, foreign missions should be focused on sending **"TRUTH IGNITED BY THE SPIRIT, THROUGH DISCIPLES"**, to other nations! Friends, I want to express my deep appreciation for all of you who prayed for this conference.

PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT "CHRISTIANISM"

The morning following the conclusion of the India conference, I was scheduled to travel to the Hyderabad International Airport at 4:30 a.m, to catch my flight to London. When I entered the cab, for my 45-minute drive to the airport, I was totally exhausted. My driver that morning was named Billup. As we began our trip to the airport, Billup asked me if I was in Hyderabad on business. Of course, that opened a door for me to share about the week. Billup then responded with these words, "Jesus! I have heard the name Jesus; but I know nothing about Him. Can you tell me about 'Christianism'?" Yes friends, that is the term he used. This man was totally a blank slate! He had never heard anything about the Lord Jesus Christ. The next 45-minutes afforded me with a



precious "open door" to give an answer to Billup for the hope that is within me. Obviously, I began with 'the Deity of Jesus Christ' and the ramifications of His Deity. Then I moved into the truths concerning the holiness of God and the implications of His holiness. When I began to speak about the moral law of God and the sinfulness of man, I could hear Billup responding in the front seat with these words, "Oh! I am a sinner! Yes, it is true! I am a terrible sinner!" But then dear friends, I moved to the "good news of God's tremendous provision" in the work of Jesus Christ. As I expounded and explained the glorious truths of the Cross, Billup responded with these words, "This is the most beautiful story that I have ever heard in my entire life!" I replied, "Billup, this is not a story. This is reality!" Then, I had a few moments to clearly explain the necessity and nature of genuine repentance and saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a precious "divine appointment" at 4:30 in the morning!

CONFERENCES IN ALABAMA AND LOUISIANA!

The Lord blessed in tremendous ways, in both the 'Christ-centered Discipleship' conference at The Fellowship Church in Albertville, AL; as well as the teaching of 'The Beatitudes', at Providence Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA! Both conferences were extremely well attended, in spite of serious weather threats throughout both of the 2 weeks. One of many precious highlights was the conversion of a 70-year old man, whose name was George. God gave me the tremendous joy to be the 'seed-sower of Gospel truth' into George's heart and mind, for two and a half hours (in my hotel lobby)! After proclaiming many truths surrounding the reality and the authentic evidences of true conversion, I urged George to seek the Lord while He may be found. Later that afternoon, He testified to his wife that he had been converted to Christ. When he shared his testimony of his "new birth" with his wife, she responded by saying, "Well George, I am lost"! She later indicated that she too had come to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance and faith. There was also another young lady who announced that she had come to Jesus on His terms! Later that evening, George courageously took the microphone and freely shared his testimony, before a rejoicing congregation. Friends, both of these churches demonstrated a tremendous hunger and teachability throughout these '11 session' conferences. It is so refreshing to teach a group of believers who are hungering and thirsting for God's Word! God also gave me the personal privilege to teach "Christ-centered Evangelism" at Friendship Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA. (Continued)

There was a tremendous attendance for every session, even in the face of the world's big party - (The super bowl)!!! It was so encouraging to see a group of believers that are hungry for the truths of biblical evangelism! God gave us a packed church of teachable believers, for 2 solid hours of teaching every night! The Spirit of God was speaking to many of us in a powerful way! I only wish that I had more space to share about the many various ways that our Lord has worked in these last 2 months!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUING INTERCESSION AND SUPPORT

Our hearts are rejoicing in the special 'Gospel partnership' that so many of you have continually demonstrated to our life and ministry. This precious relationship reminds me of the 'Philippian's Gospel cooperation and community', which the apostle Paul enjoyed with that first-century group of disciples! There are so many churches and individuals who regularly tell us that, 'they are faithfully interceding for these various Gospel opportunities, as well as for us personally'. It is so precious to know that brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus are praying for us and supporting our passion to be 'channels of blessing' to literally thousands of foreign pastors and church planters. We are so very thankful that our Lord has brought you alongside of us, to co-labor for the great commission and the glory of God! There are three international conferences scheduled for the summer and fall. We deeply appreciate your prayers and support for these conferences; as well as the monthly support, which we provide for many church planters on the field. We love you in the Lord Jesus Christ. May each of us continue to testify concerning the reason for the confidence that we have in Christ.

*Your servant for Jesus' sake,
Ed & Dianne Lacy*

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- March 20-24..... Fellowship Baptist Church - Steinhatchee, FL
(Christ-centered Evangelism conference)
- March 25-27..... First Baptist Church - Rainsville, AL
(Easter weekend evangelistic outreach)
- April 3-7..... Riverside Baptist Church - Denham Springs, LA
(Christ-centered evangelism conference)
- April 10 Romar Beach Baptist Church - Orange Beach, AL
- April 15-17 Arrowhead Bible Church - Palm Coast, FL
- April 24-29 The Mission of Hope - Mobile AL
(A Christian drug and alcohol program)
preaching all week -12 sessions)

