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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you....” – Matthew 28:19-20a

Every follower of Jesus is to heed this Call and Commission; as if the Lord Jesus was standing before us, with His nail-pierced hands stretched out, speaking to our heart with all of His authority! I remind you that this great commission is a personal and perpetual obligation to all of us. Friends, this is not only for the disciples of old; it is for every disciple of the Lord Jesus, who is alive today! If you have come to Jesus, as your **Savior**; then you have also come under Jesus, as your **Lord**; and also, you have come after Jesus, as your **Teacher**. Our “Master-Teacher” is giving every disciple specific instructions in this familiar passage. He is commanding us to invest, what has been invested in our life, into the lives of others.

A disciple is not some higher level of the Christian experience, for the word ‘disciple’ is a synonym for an authentic Christian. In Acts 11:26 we see that “The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch”. Indeed, every person becomes a disciple of Jesus at the moment of their conversion! But dear friends, we have been transformed from rebels into disciples for a supreme purpose; and this supreme purpose is to reproduce other disciples, for the glory of our Lord and Teacher! Our Lord is declaring to us that ‘there is far more to being a disciple, than merely following Jesus alone’! Jesus is saying that ‘being a faithful disciple involves making other disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ’.



Of course, this includes not only sharing our faith and seeing others converted to Christ and following the Lord in “believer’s baptism”; but it also involves passing on the Baton of Truth to those infant disciples, by planting the truths which you have learned, into their lives. Not only are we to faithfully plant truth into them; we are to be faithful to live a “Christ-centered” life before these new disciples;

and to teach them through the example of our life, as we follow Jesus before them! I am so thankful that Dianne and I are both recipients of faithful disciples, who heeded this call and obeyed Jesus’ commission.

In 1980, in New Orleans, LA, God performed a supernatural miracle in the life of an agnostic, rock and jazz drummer. The Lord Jesus saved the most unlikely of characters! This 29-year-old pagan musician had never opened a Bible in his entire life. But the minister of music, in the church that this drummer began to attend, came alongside of this ignorant and infant disciple. That minister of music (Ray Jones) began to invest the Word of God into this “new-born” believer. Bro. Ray invested his time, his life and his love into this young follower. Friends, I will be forever grateful that this precious brother in Christ willingly met with me and two other men, every Friday morning; and he poured the foundations of the faith into our lives! He taught me the basics of the Christian walk. He taught me the importance of memorizing and meditating on scripture; and he offered me great tools to implement those things. He taught me how to study the Word and seek the Lord in prayer. (Continued on p. 2)

Upcoming Schedule

JUNE 9-13...URIAH
 BAPTIST - URIA, AL

JUNE 23-30...NICARAGUA
 CHRIST-CENTERED
 EVANGELISM @ R.H.E.M.A
 BIBLE INSTITUTE

JUNE 27...HOME OF
 GRACE
 MOBILE, AL - DIANNE

JULY 8-11...CITY OF
 REGUFE-LUCEDALE, MS

JULY 14-28...BREAK

AUGUST 3...GRADUATION
 VIRGINIA -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
 PhD

Fall/Winter
 Mission Trips
 September - Cuba
 December - Kenya

We shared our hearts and our struggles together. We went witnessing and ministered together. Our families spent time together. During this time, Ray was continually ministering to the masses; but he was also spending quality, priority and consistent time, investing the truth, as well as his life, into me. He was faithful to pass the “**Baton of Truth**” to this newly converted disciple of Jesus. It is now my responsibility, to be faithful to pass the baton of sound doctrine and holy living to the lives of others, who will continue to be able to pass it on.

The apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:9, “The things which you have **learned** and **received** and **heard** and **saw** in me, these do, and the God of peace with be with you”. He is imploring them to reproduce the life that he has declared and demonstrated to them. Paul had effectively fed them, by expounding the teachings of Jesus; and he had wonderfully led them, by the example of his life, which was lived out among them and before them. Now, He is calling on them to multiply that teaching and that holy living, by passing the **Baton of Truth** to others, and investing their lives into others!



BE FAITHFUL TO PASS THE BATON

Through the years, the Lord has opened many wonderful doors to preach the Word of God to hundreds of thousands of people, in over 20 nations; in over 130 foreign mission trips; and all over this country in churches, prisons, drug rehabs, homes...etc. But God has also graced me with the tremendous privilege of passing on the baton of truth, in the personal discipleship of approximately 30 different men, through the years. I am thinking of a letter that I just received from Dr. Jason Allen. Jason was recently elected as the 5th president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. But I remember Jason, as a newly converted college student in Mobile, 16 years ago. God had given him an insatiable appetite for the Word of God and a passion for the things of Jesus Christ. Our precious Lord gave me the blessing of discipling him and about 12 other young men for a few years. Most of those young men were college students; although there were a few of them who were men who were already in the workforce. They would show up at our home, every Friday morning at 5:30! We would study the Word and pray together! Some of them would join me on different ministry opportunities. It is amazing to see what God has accomplished, not only in Jason’s life, but also in the other men who would meet with me on those Friday mornings. All but 4 of those young men are now pastors of local churches; and Jason is now the president of a Baptist seminary with over 1,400 young disciples studying for various types of ministry! They now have been given many tremendous opportunities to pass this Baton on to others.

Even in these days, I am away from home, traveling all over this globe, a little over ½ of every year; but every Friday, unless I am out of the country, I am discipling a young man named Tim! It is a joy to watch Tim grow in sanctifying grace and intimate knowledge of our Savior and Lord! My desire is to continue to take every opportunity to preach the Word of God to the masses. But I also do not want to neglect, as a priority in my life, to spend quality time, priority time and consistent time, investing God’s truth and my life into the lives of younger disciples, who will be faithful to pass the baton of truth to others also! This is exactly what our Lord and Savior modeled for each of us; and this is exactly what He is calling us to do, in this great commission!

Someone passed the baton of truth to you! You must not drop the baton! Every believer should have spiritual children; grandchildren; and even great grandchildren in the faith! Oh, dear brothers and sisters, don’t even consider the possibility of dropping the baton! You are not in this alone! May each one of us make a fresh

CONFERENCE IN HOLGUIN, CUBA

Bro. Garry Morrison and I have recently returned from Holguin, Cuba, where the Lord tremendously blessed us once again with the opportunity to disciple over 500 pastors, missionary church-planters and cell-group leaders from the Holguin district of Cuba! The senior pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church, testified to us that He believes that this particular study, which I entitled, “Christ-Centered Discipleship”, was probably the most powerful, penetrating, and providential study that we have ever taught!

(Continued on next page)

I believe that it was certainly one of the timeliest conferences that Garry and I have taught in Cuba! We experienced a touch of Revival, as the Holy Spirit was obviously applying each session in a mighty way. An overwhelming demonstration of brokenness and repentance penetrated throughout the crowd. There were times when a holy hush would be over the group, as we taught God's word, and then weeping would pervade over many of those in attendance. Bro. Garry said that on a more than a couple of occasions, he was overwhelmed by the manifest presence of God; and filled with tears, making it difficult to continue to translate. The Spirit of God was powerfully speaking through these 2 weak clay pots! In this discipleship teaching, we focused on:

- ❖ **The Great Commission And The Ultimate Prize Of a True Disciple – (To be like Jesus)**
- ❖ **The Disciple's Diligent Pursuit Of Practical Holiness**
- ❖ **The Disciple And His Battle With Temptation**
- ❖ **The Disciple As A Faithful Husband And Wife Within The Marital Relationship**
- ❖ **The Mark And Motivation Of The Genuine Disciple From John 13**
- ❖ **The Disciple And His Tongue**
- ❖ **The Disciple And His Relationship To The World**
- ❖ **The Disciple As A Steward Of The Master's Resources**
- ❖ **The Disciple's Investment Of God's Truth And His Life Into The Lives Of Others**

Bro. Garry Morrison, who is a precious brother in Christ and has been my co-laborer on a number of walks through this open door to communist Cuba, writes these words, "The insatiable hunger for the Word of God that our Cuban brothers and sisters possess, was very evident during the Christ-centered Discipleship Conference in Holguin, Cuba. These faithful disciples of Jesus listened to the teachings and took copious notes, night after night, for 6 straight nights and 3 hours a night. They did all of this on hard benches and in warm temperatures. Many of those in attendance mentioned to me privately that, 'They expectantly and excitedly wait for Bro. Ed to come each year; because they know that they are going to eat a solid serving of spiritual food and sound doctrine'. Pastor Miguel said to us on the last evening, that each year when you are coming, there is no need to make a big promotion for our missionaries and cell group leaders. All of them eagerly register and then flock to the sanctuary from long distances. He further alluded to the fact that 'the topic' for this year's conference was a much-needed teaching for all of the missionaries and lay leaders of the churches and missions. I am truly blessed to be part of this ongoing ministry that God has allowed us to be involved with in Cuba. I get triple blessings out of it, as I translate the written material; then as I review and study the material; as well as when I orally interpret the material, during the conference, alongside Bro. Ed. One of my personal prayers and heart's desire is that God, in His providence, would open the door for me to spend more time teaching in Spanish speaking churches and in the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. But until then, I will continue to be faithful where God has called me to be; and wait patiently on Him to open the door. Let me conclude by saying, it is obvious that the Spirit of God is moving in Cuba; and these believers are eager and growing disciples in the classroom of King Jesus. But there are many false teachers that are attempting to enter into Cuba and rob God of the Glory that He deserves. So please pray that as we depart from Cuba each year, the Lord Himself will help these brothers to 'Be sober, be vigilant and steadfast in the faith!'"

The following are just a few of the hundreds of testimonies that were given to us, upon the conclusion of this wonderful conference. One leader writes, "I have always felt that I was a faithful disciple of Christ; however, during this conference, I was confronted by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, - that I needed to re-adjust many areas of my life, to be a faithful disciple of Christ."

Another testifies, "I thank God for both of you! Many times when you taught, it was as if you were talking directly to me. It was like the Holy Spirit of God had placed an X-ray machine on my life regarding demonstrating 'agape' love to others, refraining my tongue, and giving joyfully and sacrificially from what God has given me. During the conference, God convicted me regarding my selfishness. I have had a neighbor who had some material needs; so when I went home that night, I shared with her, out of love and out of what the Lord has given to me. This brought so much joy to my life. Thank you for being a blessing to my life and ministry." (Continued on p.3)

Brothers and sisters, I never dreamed, (and I am sure neither did Ray Jones), that the Lord was going to give me the precious blessing of teaching Cuban pastors, church planters and lay leaders on 30 mission trips! All I can do is say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name"! As long as my King keeps this door open and gives me the grace to go, I want to be faithful to continue to invest His truth and my life into these Cuban disciples. It is an awesome blessing, to know that they are continuing to multiply these truths into their congregations, and that they are equipping those who will be able to teach others also!

One of the lay leaders shares these words of testimony, “In the Christ-centered Discipleship Conference which you imparted to us, I have seen how God has answered my prayers. Since last year, I have been asking Him to help us (as a congregation) to deepen our lives of worship and holiness and of separation from the world. God has surely done this in my life, through this conference. I will continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to use you in this ministry, and may you continue to dedicate this precious time, to come to Cuba for the spiritual growth of our churches and ministries in Holguin, Cuba. Thank you for your love, your commitment and your dedication to invest in our lives. Also, thank you for your sound Biblical teachings and your transparency in sharing many of your personal testimonies.”



GLORIOUS TESTIMONIES OF CONVERSIONS

I have also experienced the exhilarating joy of being the “gospel preacher” in 4 different weeks of outreach, since our last newsletter. There has been approximately 30 adults and youth who have testified that they have come to know the converting grace of God in these meetings, in AL, MS, and TN! The Lord Jesus said that there is a celebration of infinite joy in Heaven over one sinner who comes to repentance. It is for “this joy” that was set before Jesus, that He endured and exhausted the wrath of God against sinners, on the cross! And

Friends, please know that I do not share this testimony to toot my own horn. I share that testimony to declare to you, that if we will do “God’s work; God’s way; for God’s glory, then we do not have to use manipulation, pressure, tactics, salesmanship, and any humanly invented gimmicks or gadgets! We are to pray, proclaim, plead and then wait on God to do the work that only He can do, which is turn rebels into Disciples!

dear friends, there is great joy in my heart, when I hear from the local pastors, that there are adults and youth giving Bible evidences of authentic repentance and saving faith. I want to share a few words of testimony from one of those pastors. Jonathan Sims, pastor of Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church in TN, is a tremendous expositor of the Word of God. I had the joy of serving that church a few weeks ago. He testifies about the recent meeting there. **“Bro. Ed Lacy was at Shelbyville Mills for our recent spring revival. Our church experienced the biblical ministry of the evangelist, described in Ephesians 4. Bro. Ed came alongside of me to ‘equip the saints for the work of the ministry’. He was faithful to build up the body of Christ while he was here, and help us to grow in intimate knowledge of our Savior and Lord. Each of the messages was thoroughly biblical; and yet, clear to understand. For the first time in my entire ministry, I believe that our church experienced the ministry of a true biblical evangelist! It is a shame that this gift has been lost in our Southern Baptist Churches! He preached a “Christ-centered” gospel each day and night, and urged sinners to come to Jesus on His terms. There was no manipulation; no ‘man-made’ pragmatic techniques to entice people to raise hands or walk aisles. He preached the truth and then left the results to the convicting and drawing power of the Holy Spirit. Since that meeting, there have been 6 people who have come to me, to let me know that they were converted during that week! All of them are showing good**

evidence of the fruit of regeneration. We are now in the process of counseling them for ‘believer’s baptism’. Lord willing, Bro. Ed will be back at our church very soon!”



Friends, we were able to give the salaries of 24 church planters in to gives funds for a number of physical needs, involving the mission churches in Holguin. We were also blessed to pay for all of the expenses for this conference of over 500 pastors, church planters and lay leaders. Above all of that, the Lord wonderfully supplied for all of Garry’s and my travel expenses to Cuba and back! I am saying all of this, to give you an example of the costs involved in one of these foreign mission trips. This would be impossible for us to do alone. But our faithful Father has brought together a precious group of devoted and steadfast brothers and sisters in Christ, who consistently pray for and give to this ministry. We are overwhelmed with praise and adoration for our Lord and filled to overflowing with thanksgiving for you, and your unwavering and sacrificial love and loyalty to us; and to our God and King. Dear friends, YOU are a vital part of every spiritual investment, which we are making into the lives of others through this ministry. Thank you for running this race with us. Let’s be faithful, diligent, and steadfast in this race, until we reach the finish line.

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Ed Lacy