



**ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.**  
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**STRIVING TO DO  
 GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY**

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## **JUNE 2014**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Lord and Savior confronted us with a powerful and profound declaration in Luke 12:8-9, when He proclaimed, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of man will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." Friends, this is an often misused and abused passage of scripture. I have heard preachers use this verse, in an attempt to coax people to take a walk to a platform at the end of a sermon, on many occasions. But this verse has nothing to do with taking a walk to the preacher or to a platform inside of a church building. The word "confess" means for a person to proclaim what is true, about the Person of Jesus; the work of Jesus; and the teachings of Jesus. Notice that this confession is before the "men of the world system"! This is not primarily speaking about "what you say and do before a congregation" within the walls of a church building! Neither is this issue of "confessing" about what you say with your lips. This word "confess" is primarily focusing on what you say with your lips and your life, before a lost and dying world!

There are many people within the pale of the Christian church, who are "big talkers" within the church walls; but they are not authentic walkers before the world! They are only hearers of the Word. They may even give "lip service" to the Word. However, their life and their lips do not demonstrate the evidences that they are authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, before a lost and dying world! Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven." Well then, the question would be, who is going to enter into the kingdom of heaven? Jesus says that it is, "He who is continuing to do the will of My Father, Who is in heaven". This clearly reveals to us that it is the one that not only hears the Word; not just one that is giving lip service to the Word; but it is the one who hears these teachings of Jesus and does them, before a watching world! This person is manifesting the kind of "confession of Jesus Christ" that is clearly demonstrating that they have embraced the Person of Jesus Christ; the work of Jesus Christ; and the words (the teachings) of Jesus Christ. Their beliefs and their behavior are giving the ongoing evidences that they have been converted from a rebel sinner into a worshiping saint!



### **Upcoming Schedule**

June 2-11 – Cuba

June 16-20 –  
 Woodside Baptist  
 Family Church Retreat  
 Jay Bird Springs, GA

June 29 - July 2 –  
 Mission of Hope  
 Mobile, AL

June 13-17 –  
 Lakeside Baptist  
 Church  
 Hattiesburg, MS  
 Christ Centered  
 Evangelism

August 4 - 8 - India  
 Christ Centered  
 Evangelism  
 Training Pastors in  
 Goa

August 11-15 – India  
 Christ Centered  
 Evangelism  
 Training Pastors in  
 Siliguri

**"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." – Matthew 7:21**



I think about the confession that Ruth made in Ruth 1:16, when she testified to Naomi, “Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God...”. This confession was made by a young woman, a poor woman, a widow woman; and one who was previously a foreigner to the Lord. But now she makes an open allegiance of her commitment to the Lord, not only with her lips, but also with her very life. The rest of her life revealed to the world, that her confession was authentic. This is to be the life testimony of every true disciple of Jesus Christ, before this wicked world system. They proclaim with their mouth and their manner of living, “I am a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I am not ashamed of Him”. As we continue to live in a culture that is utterly fallen and rapidly deteriorating, we must not be ashamed to publicly acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus over our lives; both in our talk and our walk. The people within our sphere of influence must know, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that we are the purchased property of the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought to be ashamed, if we are ever ashamed of the Lord Jesus and His gospel! We ought to be fearful of ever being fearful about proclaiming Him, through our life and lips! We ought to be taking opportunities, and making opportunities to declare that ‘we are the glad and willing slaves of the Lord Jesus’!

Take notice dear friends, that as soon as Naomi came out of the land of the idolatrous Moabites, and headed back to her people and her God, the Lord gave her the soul of this young woman who was so closely related to her. It may be that some of us have left our first love with the Lord Jesus; and we have been living at a distance from the fire and freshness of that flaming intimacy with Jesus, which we once knew. It may be that some of us have not been pursuing a life that is “set apart from our flesh’s agendas; and set apart unto God’s agendas” for our life. It may be that some of us have been trying to serve two masters. But we will never win the souls of those around us to the narrow road that leads to eternal life, by compromising with them and with the world! We must publicly be faithful to our Lord and Savior, in our walk and our talk, if we are going to be faithful witnesses to the lost within our sphere of influence. True “heart-faith” in the Lord Jesus produces a courageous, constant, and consistent confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. This confession is to encompass every area of the life of a true disciple of Jesus.

A physician makes his confession, not only by the plaques on his wall; but also by the practice of his work! His profession is validated by his practice. His confession is verified by his conduct. The same will be true of every authentic disciple of Jesus Christ. His confession is manifested by his conduct before a lost and dying world! It will be clearly seen in his ambitions, his attitudes, his affections, his actions and his words. Oh dear friend, my prayer for each of us, is that our profession would be clearly manifested in our practice. One man said it in this manner, “Be so clearly a Divine portrait of the Lord Jesus, that the moment that a person of the world lays his eyes upon your life, he must say, whether he likes it or not, “Yes, that is a work of God; that is a Christian”.”



## PUBLICLY CONFESSING OF CONVERSION TO OUR LORD!

I have experienced the precious joy of being the “seed sower” of the Gospel and witnessing a number of men and women make an initial public confession of “Jesus as Lord,” in recent weeks! I am thinking about a man who came up to me in my home church a couple of weeks ago. I recognized his face; but I did not know his name. He said to me, “**I just want you to know, Bro. Ed, that until a few months ago, I was in the grips of drug addiction. I was one of the men in the Mission of Hope (a Christian drug and alcohol rehab in Mobile, where I often preach). You preached, a gospel message, at the Mission of Hope a few months ago; and that night, my life was radically changed! I was redeemed by the mighty grace of God; I was delivered from drug addiction; my marriage is restored; my family is reunited; I am a new creation in Christ! And last week, I publicly came before the church, asking for believer’s baptism!**”  
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Glory to God dear brothers and sisters! I did not accomplish that mighty deliverance. But I was certainly overjoyed that I was there, when the Lord Jesus Christ performed His saving and delivering work.

I am thinking about a man who was in the orchestra at First Baptist Church of Killen, AL. I was preaching revival messages to believers, during those days. This young man was headed home after the Tuesday evening message; but he turned around and came back to the church to meet with one of the staff members, because he was troubled over the condition of his soul. He was gloriously converted to the Lord Jesus Christ and he publicly confessed his “former life of self-deception”; and publicly embraced Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior! Pastor David McKelvey testifies about that week of meetings in these words, **“A faithful elderly gentlemen in our church made a summary statement about our recent revival with you as our guest preacher. This man rarely speaks, unless he has a strong conviction from the Lord. Hence, these words came from a soul who was deeply moved by the Lord. He said as he departed from our concluding service, “This is the greatest revival that we have ever had!” From all of his years of membership here and years of walking with Jesus, he stated clearly the impression that many others have expressed, about how the Lord has stirred our hearts toward a greater love for Christ; for His church; and for those whom we are to reach for His glory! We praise God for His leadership in bringing you to us and using you among us, in these days of Holy Spirit revival!”**

Even on that last evening, I spent quite a long time witnessing to and counseling with a woman in her 30's. Her father was a Free Will Baptist preacher. She told me she had made a “so-called decision” as a 9-year-old girl. But as the week unfolded, she had come to the shattering realization that her life and her lips had NEVER manifested the evidences that Jesus was her Lord and God! She testified that she was recently in the hospital with a serious illness; and she knew she would have gone to hell, if she had died in that hospital! She testified that evening, that she was now embracing Jesus as her Lord and Master, to go where He goes and to follow after Him. Please pray for fruit that remains.

We also were blessed with a glorious “Easter weekend” outreach crusade, that I had the joy of preaching at Crossroads Baptist Church, with my dear friend Pastor David Cofield. **Bro. David writes, “This Easter weekend evangelistic effort proved to be more successful than I had expected. Our people prayed; they visited door-to-door; they attended extremely well; even on Friday and Saturday evenings! The Gospel was preached in such power and glory, that it caused many seeds to be sown. An adult man testified of the converting work of the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart and life on that Good Friday evening service! He gladly and openly confessed Jesus as his Lord, before the Easter morning congregation, saying that he was embracing Jesus as his King and Master! And not only that, but the church was revived. That's right... the church was revived! An evangelistic crusade revived the Lord's church at Crossroads. One elder said, “It was as refreshing as a spring rain”. Another member commented that it caused a ‘holy expectation to rise from within’. Our church loves Ed and Dianne. We count it an honor to call them friends.”** Oh dear friends, I could go on and speak about the glorious week in Shelby, NC at the Crossroads Rescue Mission. There were a number of men who testified of the mighty work of grace in their lives! The Holy Spirit is still on mission in this fallen culture, gathering in the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is calling on us to make a new commitment to be involved in courageous, constant, and consistent confessions of “Jesus as Lord” through our lives and our lips!



### *Women's Conferences*

Thank you for praying for the most recent conferences. We enjoyed sweet fellowship around the Word of God. I loved meeting and sharing with the precious ladies at both Friendship Baptist in Baton Rouge, LA and Olivet Baptist in Ocala, FL. During our time together, I taught from the book of Ruth. The theme for the weekend was ‘The Lord of New Beginnings – from Brokenness to Blessing’. Continued on next page

Upon the conclusion of the conference in Baton Rouge, I was able to speak and counsel with several of the women, one on one. One of the ladies, who had come to the conference with a friend, shared with me about what was going on in her life. **She said, "In the church which I regularly attend, some changes have been taking place. Even though these changes are unsettling to me, they have caused me to dig more into the Bible for myself. This weekend has been so good for me. As you were teaching, I begin to see wonderful truths. Thank you for teaching straight from the Word of God. I don't know exactly what is taking place in me, but I feel like the Lord is really doing something new in me, from what I am seeing in His Word".**

Again at Olivet, the Lord was using His word to encourage, exhort and edify the women in the conference. It was a joy to be their guest speaker at their 1<sup>st</sup> endeavor in hosting a weekend Mother/Daughter conference. One of my dear friends writes, **"I wanted to write and let you know that the retreat could not have come at a better time for me; since just losing my dad to cancer. Your teaching on "Ruth" was no coincidence. It was everything I needed to hear and be reminded of, concerning our loving heavenly Father. He knows just what we need to hear. He does care about every detail in our lives. He does have a plan and His plans always have a purpose. This study caused me to realize how blurry my spiritual vision had become, because I was setting my mind on my circumstances. I was reminded that good and bad are running on parallel tracks in our lives; and sometimes they arrive at our door at the same time. In those times, I cannot forget the good things I still possess! I am so thankful that our God is about new beginnings! I was also reminded to keep my eyes fixed on His field, and to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. Also, I loved how you used the computer words to illustrate truth from each chapter. They were perfect to illustrate our lives and our need to go to the Living God daily. When we remember who our God is and what He does in us and for us, we will see our need to reset, or be restored back to our first love; to be refreshed and energized to do the works He has called us to; and then we will see Him replenishing our lives. Like a computer, my life was getting bogged down with viruses that needed to be deleted. I now have a clearer vision of the God who works in me. I pray that the Lord will use this study in other women's lives so that they too will be refreshed and restored to Him.**

## *Thank You*

As I am sitting at my desk, thinking of you and thanking our Lord for you, I am contemplating on Galatians 6:6, which says, "Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches". You have shared your material benefits with me, so that I can continue to share spiritual benefits with pastors, church planters, cell group leaders and lay believers, all over this globe! You have been so faithful to support our desire and determination to teach the eternal truths of the Word of God with those who can and will teach others also. And in doing so, you have ministered to this ministry and to the ministries of many, many leaders, around the world, in a tremendous way! Through your prayers and your financial gifts, **You** have been "channels of blessing" to us; so that we might be "channels of blessing" to others!

As you know, when I teach these conferences in foreign nations (2 in Cuba this year; 2 in India; and 1 in Kenya), it is always an output of thousands of dollars. The Lord uses you and your gifts to enable us to feed these hundreds of leaders; your gifts take care of their bus travel expenses; you pay for their workbooks; you pay for the cooks; you help pay for my travel expenses; as well as the many other smaller items needed for such outreach! Dear friends, we believe, with all of our hearts, that foreign missions is far more than only sending people to other parts of the world. We believe it is all about sending **"truth on fire"** through a disciple, to other parts of the world! The believer who is more concerned about giving to others, than about receiving from others, will be constantly refreshed in his own life. He will enjoy in greater ways, the things that are shared with him. So dear precious co-laborers of the faith, we praise our God and gracious Provider; and we thank you, as His channels of blessing, to extend 'HIS TRUTH' into the lives of many, many leaders in this needy world!

II Corinthians 4:5

*Ed & Dianne Lacy*