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

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JUNE 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

II Corinthians 4:6 - "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ". Only yesterday (before the compilation of this latest newsletter), I was approaching the New Orleans International Airport, for the purpose of meeting with Rev. Ebenezer Samuel. Ebey (as he is called) is the national director and president of Serve India Ministries. As I was headed to the New Orleans airport, I passed within one block of the apartment where the Lord Jesus Christ saved my soul, in October of 1980! For well over 29 years, I was alienated from the life of God. I was existing in willful ignorance of the glories of the Gospel, because of the blindness of my own desperately wicked heart. I hated the light of a Christ-centered life. I cherished the darkness of my own self-centered, self-directed and self-pleasing life. And if I would have been left to myself, I would never have left the darkness that I had cherished, to come to the light of the Gospel, which I had so despised and rejected.

Oh, but praise the name of Jesus; for I was not left to myself! My dear wife, Dianne, had been supernaturally converted to the Lord Jesus two years prior to this. She had become a new creation in Christ. Dianne began living the "light" of a transformed life before my agnostic eyes. She commenced to patiently and persistently pray that my blinded mind would be illuminated, by the light of the glorious gospel. She would attempt to plant 'gospel seeds' into my life; but I would respond in angry arrogance and obstinate rejection. But she continued to pray for my salvation; she pursued opportunities to witness to my lost soul; and she maintained her 'walk in the light'! My precious wife was no longer living in the darkness. She was now 'light in the Lord'! The light of her transformed life had become an overwhelming argument for the reality of God the Son and His mighty life-transforming gospel!



As I travelled only a few blocks further down Williams Boulevard, toward the airport, I also passed First Baptist Church of Kenner. This is the church, in which Dianne had been converted and had become an active member. I decided to stop and park in front of the 'prayer room', for a few moments. I reflected on the precious reality that, many years ago, a number of the prayer warriors from the church had joined with Dianne, to pray for the salvation of my lost soul! Friends, my heart was literally overwhelmed with thanksgiving, for those people who cared enough to intercede for a lost drummer!

Oh but then, I began to recall the night when the Lord answered the intercessions of my wife and the prayer warriors at First Baptist Kenner. I had come home from the 'pitch black darkness' of the nightclubs of New Orleans, in the early morning hours before daybreak; just as I had done on many other nights. I had turned on the television and began to channel surf, just as I had done on countless previous occasions. But this night, I settled on a channel, where a minister was preaching the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ! On any other night, I would have laughed, mocked and probably blasphemed the message and the messenger. I would have, figuratively speaking, stuck my fingers in my ears! Oh, but on this particular October night, there was 'Someone', who was infinitely more powerful than that preacher, who was calling out to my blinded heart! The 'Great Quickener' mysteriously and mightily applied that message, in such a way, that my sin-blinded mind was suddenly illumined!

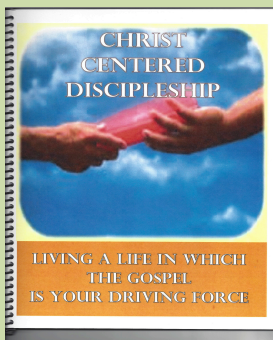
The Wind of God infused the “words of the gospel” with supernatural light, which powerfully obliterated the darkness of my mind! The Spirit of Grace removed the spiritual blinders that had absolutely covered and smothered my sin-darkened heart, for almost 3 decades! The same God who commanded “Let there be light”, in the physical creation; proclaimed, “Let there be gospel light” in the darkness of Ed Lacy’s heart! God graced me with the light of the “saving knowledge” of His glory, in the face of His Son! He mightily transformed this persecutor into a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Three years later, the Lord called me into an itinerant evangelistic ministry. In these last 31 years of gospel ministry, our awesome God has given me the joy to preach and teach His Word, literally over most of this globe. I have known the joy of training pastors; teaching church planters; and preaching the Gospel, in 20 different nations and almost 150 foreign mission trips! Glory to His wonderful name!

After leaving my brief stop at the prayer room of First Baptist Kenner, I arrived to meet with Rev. Samuel. The Lord blessed me to be involved in extremely promising talks with the national Director of Serve India Ministries, involving invitations to preach and teach in a number of areas of India. We discussed some exciting potential opportunities, which may encompass my assistance in the training of the 4,000 pastors and church planters of their national ministry; as well as, all of the field directors of this nation-wide ministry.

As I departed New Orleans, a few hours later, my eyes filled with tears for my heart was absolutely overwhelmed of gratitude. I could not have possibly conceived all of the precious plans that God had orchestrated for my life and ministry. I was just a lost, bankrupt, destitute sinner, who was graciously given eyes to see my desperate need of a Lord and Savior. Oh, but on that night of conversion, the Lord began an unfolding and unfailing revelation, of what it means for Jesus to be my Master - Teacher; and for me to be His slave and disciple. “I once was lost, but not I’m found; t’was blind, but now I see”! When I reflect on all that He has done through our lives and ministries, I cannot help but to think of the verse which says, “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise.”

HEADED TO INDIA IN A FEW WEEKS!



My first pastor (Dr. Ron Herrod) has, once again, invited me to be a part of the Bible Institute, which he conducts, in both northeastern and southwestern India! I will be teaching the “Christ-centered Evangelism” workbook to a new group of pastors and church planters, in Goa, India, as well as, Siliguri, India! I will also have the joy, once again, to teach well over 500 pastors from all over Kenya and Uganda, in the fall of this year! I will be teaching my workbook study, which is entitled, “The Key to Supreme Happiness and Spiritual Prosperity.” We have also scheduled the first conference with Serve India Ministries, during the first week of September, in which I will be teaching the “Christ-centered Discipleship” study!

But I also reflect on all of the tremendous opportunities that God opened to me, to serve the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba for over 18 years and 38 mission conferences, training pastors, church planters and lay leaders! The Lord miraculously opened that door in 1996! Rev. Garry Morrison and I have experienced the tremendous blessings of preaching numerous evangelistic crusades in many cities, throughout eastern Cuba! I will be forever grateful for those years of tremendous opportunity, to be a “channel of God’s illuminating truths” into the lives of thousands of Cubans. To God be the glory! Great things HE HAS DONE!

**RAJ ELEAZAR TEACHING CHRIST-CENTERED EVANGELISM
AT CAREY COLLEGE IN CALCUTTA INDIA!**

My supreme ambition, in all of the compilations of these workbook studies, is to see God's truths multiplied into the lives of those 'who will be able to teach others also'. Friends, this is what true discipleship is all about! This is why I am so excited to give you this report of this spiritual reality of multiplication, which recently occurred in Calcutta, India and in Kathmandu, Nepal. Last year, you may recall that I was privileged to be part of the Bible Institute in both southern and northern India, founded by Dr. Ron Herrod. God gave me the precious joy of teaching the "Christ-centered Evangelism" workbook study, as a part of this wonderful and extensive training of pastors and church planters, from all over the nation of India; as well as the nation of Nepal, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Bhutan. My interpreter for the first week in Goa was a younger brother named Raj Eleazar. He is a wonderful and passionate Indian evangelist, who has a heart to do God's work, God's way for God's glory! I just received a powerful report of how this teaching on "biblical evangelism" has been multiplied, through Raj, in Calcutta, India and Kathmandu, Nepal. I give you a few words from Raj's testimonies concerning both conferences, in which he taught the "Christ-centered Evangelism" study to a new group of pastors and church planters in those 2 nations!

Raj writes, **"The students at Carey College in Calcutta were thrilled with what the Word of God had to say to them, concerning "Christ-centered Evangelism". They were called to focus on the Word of God for their instruction manual, instead of the worldly methods of evangelism. The students had many questions regarding this teaching of "Christ-centered Evangelism". And God graced me to answer every question carefully from the Word of God. For some students, it was really hard at the beginning, as they were already using the 'man-invented contemporary ways of evangelism'. But as the teaching was built upon, session after session, the Spirit of God was mightily applying the Word of God, and their eyes were being opened. They were specially affected by the lesson which focuses on, 'Three things that we cannot accomplish in the salvation of sinners'. First, we can't give spiritual sight to the blinded sinner. Secondly, we can't resurrect a spiritually dead sinner. And thirdly, we can't liberate the captive will of the sinner, who is bound under the tyranny of sin. At the conclusion of the entire study, many of them were determined to do God's Work, God's Way and for God's Glory. Because they were taught, through the Word of God that, 'our evangelistic labor will not be evaluated on the basis of its quantity; but on the basis of its quality. And also, they were very much encouraged and blessed by the precious truth that, 'we are not called to be successful; but we are called to be faithful'."**

CHRIST CENTERED EVANGELISM IN KATMANDHU NEPAL

Raj continues, **"Before I share about the teaching Christ-centered Evangelism in Nepal, I want to share a few things about the circumstances in Nepal; as well as what the Nepali pastors and church planters endured, so that they could finish this course on evangelism. I was the last teacher for the Institute; and "Christ-centered Evangelism" was the last subject that the attendees studied. As you well know, a powerful earthquake devastated Nepal and the place where this evangelism training was taking place! In fact, there were many days that these students suffered without proper shelter, food and water. But ultimately, I am so thankful to say, that they unanimously made the decision to finish the training; and not to leave the evangelism teaching incomplete. So we moved all of the pastors and church planters to a place called Damak, which is on the Indian border. For this area was not as affected by the earthquake. I reached Damak on Tuesday, May 12th. But as I taught 'Christ-centered Evangelism', we were again hit with another big earthquake (7.4 magnitude). All of us were terrified by the situation; but the pastors still requested for me to carry on, with the teaching of Christ-centered Evangelism. They learned many new and glorious truths that week. Many of them realized that the contemporary techniques and tactics of modern evangelism are quite the opposite of the Word of God's instruction, concerning how we must carry out the Great Commission! They had many good questions. But as the Word began to unfold, the Holy Spirit gave them the grace to understand God's ways of evangelism. Many of them concluded the week, with a personal determination to carry on 'God's Work, God's Way and for God's Glory'!** Continued on next page

They were all really filled with gladness in their hearts, that they took the decision to finish the course; and hence, they had this opportunity to have such profound teaching from God's Word. Many acknowledged that they had been using men's invented ways to attempt to do God's work. But God powerfully gave them the biblical illumination that, 'Not only has Christ commanded us what to do; but our Lord has also clearly told us 'how to do it and why to do it'! Again, I am grateful for the humbling privilege to teach this 'Christ-centered Evangelism' study; because it has radically affected my life, my messages and also my ideas about biblical evangelism. My eyes have been opened! It is my desire that this teaching about evangelism will reach all of the parts of India. I am personally looking forward to teaching these essential truths in many more places. With love and regards. Raj Eleazar of the Potter's Foundation."

GOD BRINGS ME FULL CIRCLE

Just a couple of weeks ago, I was leaving the men's class at my home church and headed to the sanctuary for the worship hour; when a couple desired to speak with me for a moment. The husband began to tell me saying, "Bro. Ed, the Lord used you to declare the Gospel to our grandson (Brandon), who is a young adult. You preached the Word of God to him; and you also witnessed to him one on one. Ed, we just wanted to let you know that Brandon has been gloriously converted to Christ Jesus! He has been delivered from drugs; and he is giving all of the fruits of genuine repentance and faith in the Lord! God has also supplied him with a good job. He is a new creation in Christ!" Friends, I am very well aware that I was only the "sower of the Seed" in the life of this young man! Only God could have obliterated the darkness of Brandon's heart! Only God could give the light of the "saving knowledge of Jesus Christ" in the inner core of Brandon's life. But I also thought about the precious truth, that almost 35 years ago, I was exactly like Brandon was. But God used my precious wife's prayers, her transformed life and her witness to me, as a major means unto my conversion. And over 3 decades later, God once again gave me the same joy and privilege of planted His Gospel seed into a lost sinner's heart; and being a witness of God's amazing grace, in the conversion of another sinner!

THE MISSION OF HOPE

My home church has an ongoing ministry of the Word of God, every Wednesday evening, at the Mission Of Hope in West Mobile. This is a 3-month Christian program, designed to minister the "life transforming truths of the Gospel" to men who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Bro. Herb Fisher, who is the teacher of our men's class, is in charge of those Wednesday opportunities. He graciously gives me any Wednesday that I am in town, to preach the Word of God to the approximately 60 men, who are continually going through this program. It really has been one of the great joys of my life, to preach the Word of God at the Mission. On those Wednesdays, that I am in Mobile, brothers Mike Shepherd and Richard Burton come along with me and witness to these needy men. We have seen a number of men testify of being "set free from the chains of addiction", through the power of the Gospel. One of the men, who have been saved in the last 5 years, is now the Operations Manager for the Mission of Hope. His name is Michael Cooper. Here are a few words of testimony from Bro. Mike, that was so encouraging to me personally. Mike writes, **"I have been involved with the Mission of Hope for almost 5 years. I have seen and heard many different preachers, through those years. Each one has their style of bringing the truth of the Word of God. But I feel that none of them compare to Bro. Ed Lacy. I well remember being in the program myself, (before I was converted and later became the Operations Manager). I remember listening to Bro. Ed on numerous occasions, in those days. He brought the Gospel to me and the other men, unlike any manner that I had heard before. There was a power unlike any other; and an anointing from God, for sure. There was no 'sugar coating' in his messages at all; but just the clear truths of the Gospel. I am so grateful for what Bro. Ed does for us here at the Mission"**.



CHRIST-CENTERED EVANGELISM IN A BOOK!

As I shared in our last newsletter, I have been challenged, on a number of occasions, to put the “Christ-centered Evangelism” study into the form of a book. These exhortations have come to me, on almost every opportunity that I have been given to teach this study; especially in foreign nations. The workbook is now in 8 different languages. But some of the pastors on our “Board of Directors” also chimed in with this personal challenge to write a book about this vital subject. I have accepted their encouragement! I have cleared out the month of June, for the specific purpose of writing this book! I have completed approximately half of the ‘rough draft’, as I write to you. I sincerely ask for your intercessory prayer, concerning the rest of the work that is ahead. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will “move me along” with His wisdom and passion, as I pursue this work. I truly believe that “it will be used by the Lord”, especially in nations like Kenya, Uganda, India, as well as Spanish speaking nations. I sincerely ask for your prayers, concerning this tremendous personal challenge. Please also pray for God’s provision for the printing and distribution in other nations!

ENGLISH
SPANISH
SWAHILI
LUGANDAN
HINDI
NEPALESE
ROMANIAN
RUSSIAN

THANK YOU

Also, again I want to give my sincere thanksgiving to all of those who stand with us, in intercessory prayer and financial support for this ministry encompassing these foreign endeavors. God has worked through your love, your intercessions and your contributions to teach literally thousands of church planters, pastors and lay leaders; as well as the glorious conversions of countless eternal souls. Dianne and I want to say, from our hearts, WE LOVE YOU! We thank the Lord for your heart to partner with us. Please pray for the four major foreign conferences, which lay ahead, in the remainder of this year! Please pray that our Lord will provide for all of the tremendous expenses that are involved. And once again, I also ask for your intercessory prayer, as I complete the 2nd half of this rough draft!

Your servant for Jesus’ sake,

Ed Lacy

- May 25 - New Grandbaby arrived – ‘Claire Patrice’
- July 16-24 - Goa, India - Christ-centered Evangelism to pastors and church planters
(As part of Bible Institute in Middle Western India on the Arabian Sea)
- July 27- - Siliguri, India - Christ-centered Evangelism to pastors and church planters
Aug. 2 (As a part of Bible institute in Northeastern India near Himalaya Mountains)
- Aug. 6-13 - Olivet Baptist Church Ocala, FL - Christ-centered Discipleship Conference
- Aug. 23 - Jubilee 2015 - North Glencoe Baptist Church, Glencoe, AL - Preaching
- Aug. 28 – - Coimbatore, India - Christ-centered Discipleship Conference
Sept. 7 (Serve India Ministries)
- Sept. 13-16 - Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, Lake City, FL – Evangelistic Outreach