

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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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I reflect on the powerful activities of our gracious God, since our last newsletter, I cannot help but think of Acts 2:36-37, **“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were CUT TO THE HEART, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”** This text is taken from the initial ‘public preaching of the Gospel’ at Pentecost, following our Lord’s ascension to the right hand of the Majesty on high. This glorious event was a sort of ‘first fruits’ of the mighty Gospel advance, which was soon to follow. The mighty power of the Spirit of God had transformed Peter, this ‘formerly ostentatious windbag’, into a powerful and passionate preacher of the Word of truth. The Lord Jesus had promised those original disciples that, “They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they would be witnesses unto the Lord Jesus Christ”. And beloved, this is precisely what occurred! If you pay careful attention to that inaugural message, from which these verses are taken, you will discover that Peter did not approach his first Gospel audience with ‘flashy rhetorical skills or with words of fleshly wisdom’. Peter proclaimed a message that centered on the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus. Moreover, Peter prosecuted his audience concerning sin, righteousness and judgment to come. This ‘Spirit-filled’ fisher of men shot the arrows of ‘both the bad news and the good news’ directly into the hearts of his Jewish audience. For it was his singular passion to see each soul in this Pentecostal congregation express “genuine repentance towards God and saving faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ”. It must have been quite amazing to observe this uneducated fisherman, who was now being moved along by the Spirit of God, to preach with courage, clarity and compassion. Oh friend, this is the same man who had vacillated between ‘drawing a sword to fight for the Lord in one instance, to denying the Lord before a lowly servant girl’ in another. Oh but now, Peter was boldly heralding the Gospel message with a supernatural combination of both fearlessness and forcefulness!

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

As Peter proclaimed this ‘Christ-Centered, Word-saturated and Spirit-empowered’ message to this Jewish audience, the scriptures inform us his hearers were **“pierced to the heart”!** The Holy Spirit infused the message with such a supernatural demonstration of power, that 3,000 Jews were sharply pierced to the very core of their beings. These human hearts, (which were deceitful above all things and desperately wicked), were mightily cut to the quick by the Spirit of God. For the Holy Spirit had taken His ‘Gospel bow in hand’, and powerfully aimed each arrow of the proclamation of “words concerning the Lord Jesus Christ”. The Spirit of God successfully hit the bull’s eye in the hearts of 3,000 needy sinners. Each one of these sinner’s inner conscience was so profoundly pierced, that they were brought ‘face to face’ with the startling reality that they were destitute and desperate sinners, who were lost in their sins and deserving of the just wrath of God! This was far more than a mere mental assent and verbal agreement to the fact that each person was a sinner. On the contrary, the Spirit of God planted the roots of conviction and contrition in their hearts, which resulted in ‘godly sorrow’ producing repentance leading to salvation!

Beloved brothers and sisters, this profound passage informs us that, a saving response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ **always** commences with this powerful penetration of Spirit-induced conviction and contrition in the heart’.

Proverbs 20:12 informs us that, ‘The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both.’ Romans 10:17 adds that, ‘Saving faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the words concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.’ (Continued)

Have you ever considered the fact that the human eye has been created for two purposes? The eye has been formulated by Almighty God both to look with and to weep with! When the Holy Spirit reveals the truth that God the Son was pierced for an individual's transgressions, that sinner will be pierced to the heart with conviction and contrition. When anyone is powerfully awakened to the truth that Jesus Christ was crushed for their iniquities, that sinner will be crushed with a sorrow over the truth that the Lord was bearing **their sins** in His body on the tree! For where there is a saving sight of Jesus, (with the eyes of faith), there will be an accompanying godly sorrow which produces repentance. "They will look on Him (whom their sins have pierced) and they will mourn." Brethren, nothing wounds the heart of a sinner like the dying love of Jesus Christ on the Cross! Furthermore, nothing heals the hopelessly wicked heart of a sinner like a 'saving look at the Cross of our Lord and Savior'. John Newton penned these powerful words many years ago,

In agony and blood; He fixed His eyes on me, as near the Cross I stood.
Oh, can it be upon the tree, the Savior died for me?
My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled, to think He died for me.
My conscience felt and owed the guilt, and plunged me in despair;
I saw my sin His blood had spilt, and helped to nail Him there.
Oh, can it be upon the tree, the Savior died for me?
My soul is thrilled, My heart is filled, To think He died for me!

MEN AND WOMEN PIERCED TO THE HEART

Since our last newsletter, our Lord has blessed me with the cherished opportunities to preach the glorious Gospel in outreach meetings in Florida, Louisiana and Alabama! Friends, there is no greater privilege than to be the proclaimer of the 'bad news and the good news', (either in a corporate setting or a personal witness), when the Spirit of God miraculously pierces the hearts of men and women! For what occurred at Pentecost, in relationship to the conversion of sinners, is not an exception to the rule. For a saving encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ always involves a supernatural and miraculous 'stabbing of the Spirit' in the human heart! I am thinking of three men in their 40's, who are presently giving precious evidence, that they have recently been graced with a 'spiritual heart transplant'. As I concluded a sermon from Luke 15 in a recent meeting, I encouraged anyone in the audience, (whose heart was being pierced with conviction and contrition), to please feel free to approach me or other counselors, if they needed to speak with someone concerning their soul. As I proceeded to the back of the room, I noticed that there was a middle-aged man who was weeping and wailing in an uncontrollable way! He was so broken and contrite of heart that he literally could not speak. So, I briefly rehearsed both the bad news and the good news with him. I urged him to seek the Lord while He may be found. I pleaded with him to call upon the Lord, while He is near. I reminded him that he must forsake his self-centered ways and turn to the Lord Jesus. I expressed to him, that he is commanded to place his personal faith in what Jesus has accomplished alone, to both forgive his sins and to clothe him with the robe of Jesus' imputed righteousness. All this man could do was to nod his head, as he continued in this unrestrained weeping. There were also others, who were seeking to speak with me about their souls. So, after a bit of time, I left him to himself **and** to the Spirit of God, while encouraging him to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. A few days later, God opened another opportunity to speak with this same man. On this occasion, he introduced himself as Patrick. He commenced testifying to me saying, "The Lord has saved my soul! He has forgiven my sins! He has graced me with eternal life! Bro. Ed, the morning that you preached the message on the prodigal son, I realized that my so-called 'profession of faith' in the past was both empty and false. I saw my wicked heart as it truly was. I was shattered over the truth that God the Son was baring my sins in His body on the cross. The Holy Spirit brought that conviction, contrition and conversion, (which you were preaching about), to my heart and life! It is absolutely a miracle that the Lord brought you into my life. For I too am a professional drummer, just as you were. My life story is exactly like yours, before the Lord changed your heart and life! Bro. Ed, I know that the Lord Jesus has saved this prodigal and transformed my life!"

I am also thinking of another middle-aged man whose name is John. This particular evening, I preached from Revelation 20 on the Great White Throne Judgment. Once again, at the conclusion of explaining both the necessity and the nature of 'repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ', I urged the audience to seek the Lord and call on the Lord to save their souls. After I closed in prayer, this man, John, literally came running to me. Tears were freely flowing down his face. He was crying out, "I can see what you have been preaching about! I can see! I can see!" I began to urge him to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. – (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

He immediately responded, "That is exactly what I have just done!" John was testifying that he had come to know that godly sorrow, which produces repentance leading to salvation! Over these last few weeks, I have had a couple of further opportunities to speak with John, following his conversion experience. Only a few nights ago, John spent almost an hour with me, glorifying God and magnifying Jesus, for the Spirit's life-transforming work in his heart. He was rejoicing over the truth that the Spirit of God had mightily pierced his heart, to reveal his guilty and lost condition to him. He was magnifying Jesus for the reality that the Spirit of God had applied the healing balm of the glorious Gospel to transform his desperately wicked heart into a new heart of flesh! He closed by saying to me, "Bro. Ed, I want to take this message to everyone. For all of my family and friends need to hear the only message which can transform their hearts and lives." Dear friends, John is presently equipping himself to testify to others, concerning what he has 'seen and heard' in the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Moreover, I must also testify about the glorious week of outreach that God gave to us at Riverside Baptist Church in Denham Springs, LA. I initially met Pastor Larry Hubbard, when I taught 'Christ-centered Evangelism' in one of the previous churches which he pastored in Bossier City, LA. That conference took place during the week of 9/11! Larry has been pastoring Riverside Baptist Church, a bedroom community of Baton Rouge, LA., for over 13 years. This pastor has been gifted by God, with a precious combination of both 'light and heat'! When I speak of 'light', I am describing a pastor whose doctrine is as solid as a rock. Furthermore, when I speak of 'heat', I am speaking of a shepherd who exhibits a fiery passion for the souls of sinners. This brother has practically exhibited an ongoing personal commitment to our Lord's great commission of "man-fishing and disciple-making". Bro. Larry always seeks to schedule 'daily evangelistic appointments', in which we have opportunities to witness to needy sinners whom he has already been interceding for and witnessing to. This week of outreach was no exception. One of the men, to whom he had already been witnessing, met with us for dinner on Saturday evening before the outreach crusade even began! It was so glorious to observe the Spirit of God drawing him, as he sat under both the preaching of the Gospel and our personal witnessing to him. This man was not only keenly focused on every message, he also continued in our company on multiple opportunities outside of the crusade meetings! He even invited a family member to attend one night. By the conclusion of the week, he was testifying that his heart and life had been radically transformed by the grace of God. He is now sharing about his good news to others and asking ones he has offended in the past for forgiveness. The fruit looks authentic!

"THIS PREACHER DOESN'T THINK THAT ANYBODY IS SAVED!"

In that same crusade, this was the critical comment made by a husband and wife, which are in their 70's. They were invited to the opening Sunday morning evangelistic service. Initially, they had no taste for the reality of the 'narrowness of the narrow gate of authentic conversion'. Oh, they had made artificial professions of faith in the distant past. But they had never come to the Lord Jesus Christ on His conditions! Before their marriage, they were actually living together in an immoral relationship. However, even though there was their initial mocking of this preacher and my message, the Spirit of God had begun to work in the heart of this woman. They attended the meeting again and sat under the preaching of a message on the 'Great White Throne Judgment'. Pastor Larry also followed up with both of them at the conclusion of the meeting. It was evident that the Spirit of God was powerfully planting the roots of conviction and contrition in the heart of this unconverted wife. By the next Sunday morning, this same woman was declaring, to the entire congregation, that she had 'entered through the narrow gate'! Dear brothers and sisters, our Lord is still saving souls! Please pray for "fruit that remains" in these precious lives.

INDIA

I am so grateful to be a part of the 'continuing training institutes' for pastors and church planters in the nation of India. Our first pastor, Dr. Ron Herrod, is the Director of this Bible institute. The institute involves ten weeks of intensive training and covers a curriculum that would normally require two years of Bible College. The goal of this institute is to train an army of godly men, who will lead the way in this dark culture; men, who will proclaim the Gospel to the lost, plant churches and disciple new believers. This particular training will occur in Hyderabad, India and Vijayawada, India. I will have the precious privilege to teach 'Christ-centered Evangelism' in Hyderabad for one week. My dear brother Ebenezer, (a pastor, whom we are blessed to support financially), will be my interpreter into the Telugu language. The following week, Raj Eleazar, (also a pastor we are privileged to support), will teach 'Christ-centered Evangelism' in Vijayawada!

I rejoice to testify that this 'Christ-centered Evangelism' study, which was originally written for Cuba over 18 years ago, has now been translated in its 5th Indian language; as well as its 11th language overall! Dear brothers and sisters, I earnestly ask for your intercessory prayers for this preacher, along with all of the pastors and church planters who will hear these "mission transforming truths".



**OVER 175 FOREIGN MISSION TRIPS
THROUGH YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!**

When the Lord Jesus saved Dianne and then myself, (two years later), He placed us in a church that possessed and expressed a passion and purpose for global mission! God used this 'foreign mission saturated atmosphere' to birth a desire and determination in my heart to 'go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' We still stand amazed of how this passion and purpose gradually grew into scores of opportunities to train pastors and church planters to be faithful and biblical 'fishers of men and disciple-makers' in their particular cultures. Precious brothers and sisters, you have been an integral part of these tremendous global opportunities in 20 various nations. Dianne and I both rejoice and give glory to the Lamb of God; as well as, rejoice with an overwhelmingly heart-felt gratitude to you, the followers of the Lord and the Lamb! We love you in the Lord Jesus. We would love to thank you 'face to face', for how very much you have blessed us and supported this ministry through your love, your prayers and your giving. Please continue to stand with us, as we continue to 'Go' and tell of His marvelous grace. As the Steve Green song implores, "May all who come behind us, find us faithful! May the fire of our devotion light their way"!

In The Best of Bonds.

Ed and Dianne Lacy

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- June 12-13..... The Mission of Hope - Mobile, AL
- June 19 The Mission of Hope - Mobile, AL
- June 27-July 13.....Christ-centered Evangelism Conference
1st Week - Hyderabad India 2nd Week - Vijayawada, India
- July 24-26..... Industrial Electroplating - Gastonia NC
(Annual Gospel outreach)
- July 29..... First Baptist Church - Gonzales, LA



We invite you to join us for updates and devotions. Ed post devotions, (5-days a week), on his Facebook Page - "Ed Lacy" and also on our website - EDLACYMINISTRIES.ORG.