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

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Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2 Corinthians 4:6, Paul proclaims this precious reality, "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". Paul is testifying, first of all, of his personal motivation for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's recall that, before his conversion, Saul of Tarsus had previously existed in the blindness of his own desperately wicked heart. The natural darkness, of his own 'sin-blinded' heart, was being compounded, by the prince of darkness. Although he was up to his eyeballs in religion, he had not been born from above; so he **could not see, nor could he enter** the Kingdom of God. But one day on the Damascus road, "He saw a light; he heard a voice; and he made a choice!" The Lord Jesus Christ shined the amazing grace of His "saving light" into Paul's blinded minded; and he was gloriously converted!

Friends, when the light of God's gospel of grace shines upon a "sin-darkened" heart, it is like opening the door of an old cellar, which has been closed for many years. When the light floods in, suddenly you see that there are all kinds of loathsome creatures crawling around in that cellar. There are rats, roaches, worms, spiders spinning their webs and snakes slithering all around in this basement. This light awakens you to the fact that this cellar is a dirty, disgusting and defiled place. You have probably walked in that basement, without any light, on a number of past occasions; but you would not have believed how defiled and despicable it truly is! However, when the light illuminates that dungeon, you begin to realize just how horribly offensive, and utterly filthy it has been, all along. Let us notice and consider, that it was not the light that made the cellar so terribly vile and unclean! No, dear friends, it was the light that revealed how loathsome and repulsive that it was all along!



Oh dear friends, when God, the Holy Spirit, shines the light of the "bad news and the good news" into a sin-blinded" heart; and then He plants the roots of conviction and contrition in that heart; they begin to see just how dirty, defiled and despicable that they truly are, in the presence of a Holy God! They were in that corrupted condition all along; but now, the light lets them truly see their desperately wicked heart, as it is! They come to understand that they are a lost, rebellious and guilty sinner, who is in desperate need of a Savior, a Redeemer and a Deliverer. Then, they come to a personal realization that Jesus Christ and His death on the cross is absolutely sufficient to meet their desperate need!

When this miracle of illumination took place in the life of Saul of Tarsus, he cried out in repentance and faith saying, "Lord, what will You have me to do?" He came to intimately know the glory of God, in the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. And dear friends, that saving knowledge redeemed his soul, won his heart and transformed his life! He was radically changed from an avowed enemy of the gospel into a mighty ambassador for Christ! Friends, you can be certain that there were extremely important political events that were taking place in Paul's day. However, he doesn't focus on them. Surely, there were tremendous social issues in the Roman Empire. But Paul's one and only solution for all of these things, was the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. He knew that when the Holy Spirit shines the glory of the Gospel on a blinded and enslaved sinner, that this captive sinner is illuminated and liberated by the power of the Gospel.

*The Light of the Gospel,  
has the Power to Shine  
forth!*

This regenerated rebel puts down his weapons of rebellion, and surrenders to the Lord Jesus. Because of this, Paul went forth preaching the gospel to every creature, in every city, in every synagogue, in every market place and in every prison. Bro. and sisters, this too is our great mission in this world. We are commissioned, by our Lord and Savior, to proclaim the glorious gospel to the ears of sinners, wherever we are; and earnestly pray that the **Wind of God** would blow on their 'sin-blinded' hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

## THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST ILLUMINATING LIVES!

I have had the tremendous joy and precious privilege of being the "seed-sower", when our God has shined the light of the glorious gospel on many men and women in the last 2 months. It has been absolutely awesome to see men and women testify of the converting grace of God in their lives. Even now, as I am writing this newsletter, I have just left a meeting with the pastor of the church where I am preaching this week. He shared with me about a man, who has been attending the meetings, and who asked to speak with him in his office last night! This man testified that he had come to the end of himself; and that he had come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith!

I was blessed to preach for 4 days at Iglesia Bautista Betel in Hickory, NC. My precious partner in the ministry in Cuba, Pastor Garry Morrison, pastors this church. He is a faithful, caring, sound and awesome "shepherd-teacher" of this local church! The Holy Spirit was actively present in the lives of many Hispanic folks, during that wonderful week. I want to share the testimony of one dear lady, who testified of conversion during that week. Yovanna sent an e-mail to our ministry, in which she shared these words, **"For the first time I clearly understood the gospel message. I realized that I was living in spiritual deception. I had never been truly converted to Christ. But praise the Lord, the Holy Spirit, has opened my eyes through the preaching of the Word. And I now testify with joy, that I have been truly converted. I have repented and believed the Gospel. I confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I have entered the narrow gate! Now, I want to do His will and allow Him to guide my entire life"**. Many others have publicly testified that God had spoken to them, through His Word, in very clear and direct ways, regarding living lives that are more pleasing to the Lord; both in their person daily walk and in their relationship with other believers in the church.

Next, I had the awesome opportunity to preach at the annual evangelistic crusade at Industrial Electroplating Co. in Gastonia, NC. The CEO and founder of the company is Bro. Walter Prescott. Oftentimes I have shared with you about Walter and his precious family. Walter is one of the most godly, passionate and compassionate men that I have ever known. Bro. Walter and his sons have invited me to preach a three-day crusade in the conference room of the plant, for a number of years now. All of the employees are paid for their hour of work; and they are invited to attend the service. The vast majority of the men and women respond positively to the invitation and come to the meetings. For each of those three days, I am given the

immense privilege of preaching a 45-minute gospel message to approximately 50 men and women from the plant! I am also given the liberty to walk among the employees and answer any questions that the men and women may have concerning the Gospel, the sermon or any other issue! Bro. Walter recently wrote to me and shared his thoughts on this latest meeting, **"Ed, I cannot put into words, how full our hearts are right now. What a tremendous blessing it was to hear God's Word preached so clearly. When God allowed us to meet you and Dianne, it was one of the great things that have happened in our lives. Ed, many of the men are**

**talking about your visit. Some who have never opened up to me, are now sharing many things with me. I really believe that God has done an illuminating work in many hearts!"**



While I was preaching in the day meetings at Industrial Electroplating, I was also preaching in the evenings, at Crossroads Rescue Mission in Shelby, NC. It is called "The Crossroads of hope for the addictions of life". There were 70 men in attendance, from 3 different missions; as well as people from the surrounding community in attendance. The Spirit of God powerfully shined the light of truth on many hearts. (Continued on next page)

There were a number of men who testified outside in the following hours and days, that the saving grace of the Gospel has shined into their hearts and set them free from the tyranny of sin! On the first evening, I had an amazing encounter, before I even began to preach the first message! A middle-aged man came up to speak with me, in the sanctuary of the mission. I have been in a lot of churches over these years, but I recognized his face; but I couldn't remember where I had met him. He began to remind me that I had witnessed to him and challenged him about the condition of his soul, in a NC church parking lot, nine years earlier. He shared the following words, **"You confronted him with the Biblical truths about true conversion; and about my need to repent and believe the gospel; but I refused to heed your pleadings."** Later in the service, he told me, along with the entire congregation that gathered, **"I tragically refused to heed the message that had been given to me on that night. My rejection of Ed's message and appeals to me eventually brought me into the bondage of drug abuse. But now, I have seen the glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and I have been delivered from the penalty and the power of sin!"** There is absolutely no doubt in my mind, that the gospel was going forth into many souls; not in Word only, but in a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. I continue to receive reports from one of the directors of Crossroads, saying that many men are testifying that the elucidating light of the gospel has radically changed them. As in all meetings, we pray for "fruit that remains", in the lives of these men and women!

I also had the tremendous joy to preach the Word of God in the very heart of the Bronx, NY, at Soundview Baptist Church. My dear brother in Christ, Cesar Perez, is their pastor. Cesar was my first interpreter, in the mid 90's in eastern Cuba. I have watched him grow into an awesome "pastor-teacher" who feeds his flock, through the exposition of the Word; and leads his flock, through the example of his life! This church is planted right in the middle of the highest crime area in the entirety of New York City! There is ferocious gang activity, crime, drug addiction and all manner of mayhem. There was a murder that took place within a "stone's throw" of the church, just recently. The house next door to the church was the scene of a major drug bust, previous to the crusade. And yet, the Gospel light is shining in the darkness of the Bronx. Pastor Cesar testifies that he is dealing with about 30 unconverted souls, who heard the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ in this meeting! On Sunday morning, which was the finale of the meeting, the church was absolutely packed with adults, who need to be converted to Christ. Some of those have already testified that they have entered through the Narrow Gate; and others continue in seeking the Lord for the salvation of their souls; while others are still counting the cost of true conversion. It is absolutely awesome, to see how Pastor Cesar has led this church away from "doctrinal liberalism and humanistic methodologies", into sound doctrine and a sincere devotion to fulfill the great commission in the Bronx!

Just a couple of weeks ago, I had the joy of seeing 3 more men and women testify that they had entered into a "saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ", at Midway Baptist Church, in Navarre, FL. I was invited to preach 2 messages on Sunday morning, by our dear friend in the ministry, Dennis Brunet. Bro. Dennis and I have been friends in the Lord for nearly 30 years! He has been the faithful shepherd of the flock at Midway Baptist for over 20 years. I have seen the Lord do many mighty things through his ministry in the Navarre and Gulf Breeze area of Florida. Being located near military facilities, Midway Baptist, has seen literally hundreds of our military and their families spend time in that church through the years. Scores of them have been thoroughly equipped for the work of ministry, by the precious staff there. Then these same families would be transferred out and deployed to many different parts of the world! Midway is truly a "mission sending" church, in this unique area of faithful followers of Jesus within our military! Dianne and I were so blessed, to serve among this great church, once again. I have been so grateful to be the preacher in all of these meetings; and be present when the Holy Spirit has blown resurrection life on sin-deadened hearts; shine Gospel light on sin-blinded hearts; and mightily liberated "sin-enslaved hearts" Glory to the name of our Savior!



## CONFERENCES ON EVANGELISM AND PRAYER!

I was also wonderfully graced to teach the "Christ-Centered Evangelism" study at Woodside Baptist Church in Ocala, FL. The pastor is Paul Daniel, who is a precious brother in the Lord. Bro. Paul served in the military for 25 years, before God called him into ministry 8 years ago! Now he is serving the Lord as a Shepherd-Teacher of the flock. There was a consistent attendance all week long! There were even folks who were attending from other area churches! The Holy Spirit mightily applied the truths in "Christ-Centered Evangelism"; and the believers manifested an evident hunger and teachable hearts to these truths. I rejoice to testify that there were also 2 people who declared that they were converted during the week of teaching on evangelism! Glory to our mighty Savior!

I have also just returned from Baton Rouge, LA, where I taught the workbook on prayer. It was hosted by both Providence Baptist Church and Foster Road Baptist Church. Once again, I was amazed at the attendance, the receptivity of the believers, and the wonderful response of all who participated. I praise God for these precious brothers and sisters in Baton Rouge, who are consistently proclaiming and rightly dividing the Word of Truth! There are so many testimonies I would love to share from that week; but I will have to save them for the last newsletter of the year!

## UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

### KENYA CONFERENCE ON PRAYER IS NOV 29TH-DEC 11TH

By the time you read this newsletter, I will be headed for Kenya, to speak at our annual pastors' conference in Kitale, Kenya. The Kenyan committee has informed me that there are 450 pastors and prison chaplains who will be in attendance. I will be teaching my workbook entitled, "A Biblical Path To An Effective Prayer Life". Each day, I will begin teaching at midnight (our time) until 9 a.m. (our time). So I will be in much need of spiritual, mental and physical strength. **Please pray** that these vital truths will come to those in attendance in illumination, renovation, application and transformation, for the glory of our Lord and Savior! The Lord has graciously provided, once again, making it possible to supply the printed materials (workbooks), a cook and 3 meals a day, transportation cost and even the purchase of extra mattresses for all the pastors attending the conference.

## WE ARE SO GRATEFUL

As we approach Thanksgiving, our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude for each of you, who have so lovingly, and faithfully stood with us, in intercessory prayer and support of this ministry. Your prayers and support have undergirded us, as we have sought to spread the light of the gospel all over this globe. Our Lord and Savior has commanded us, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven". We praise the Lord for your loving obedience to this command to be channels of that light. Thank you precious co-workers in Christ. We love you in the Lord Jesus Christ.



*11 Corinthians 4:5*

*Ed & Dianne Lacy*

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