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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,

As I returned from this most recent 11th annual pastor's conference in Kenya, my heart was overwhelmed with an exhilarating sense of inner joy. I rejoiced in the Lord over the truth that there were approximately 600 hungry and teachable pastors, church planters and spiritual leaders who were in attendance. It has been an incredible blessing to witness how our Lord has transformed the lives of hundreds of these men, with a tremendous "doctrinal reformation and spiritual revival", over these last eleven years. As I gloried in the Holy Spirit's powerful work in this most recent conference, I reflected upon the first invitation, which I received from a Minnesota mission organization in 2005. I was asked by the leaders of this 'church planting and discipleship' organization, to prayerfully consider a trip to Kenya, for the purpose of teaching "Christ-centered Evangelism" to a group of approximately eighty pastors. When I consider how the Lord has graciously multiplied that group of pastors to well over seven times that original audience, I am overawed with amazement and gratefulness to our Lord. Pastors and church planters now attend this annual conference from all over the nations of both Kenya and Uganda. Moreover, the glorious truth is that, 'these pastors return to their various cities and regions, with the workbook that I have taught them, and then teach those truths to multiply in hundreds of congregations of believers. As a consequence, there is a powerful increase of the life-changing truths from the Word of God transforming the lives of tens of thousands of lives in East Africa, for the glory of God!

As I returned home, rejoicing in the Lord over the Spirit's mighty operation in this most recent conference, I was reminded of Acts 6:7. "*Then the word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*" Those original "Book of Acts disciples" were praising their Lord, because of the magnificent fruits of the mighty operation of the Holy Spirit in and through their lives. For God was gracing them with a tremendous harvest in the advancement of the Gospel with the amplification of new born converts and maturing disciples! This dynamic spiritual awakening was akin to a prairie fire, which was being moved along by the power of a gale force wind! But friends, what was the secret to this astounding spiritual success?

First of all, these original disciples were plainly and powerfully preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were not attempting to impress men with any intellectual acumen, eloquent rhetoric or lofty discourses. They were not attempting to hide the "preaching of the Cross" behind a shroud of the power of positive thinking or felt-need centered pep talks. On the contrary, these men of God were determined to know nothing, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified! Their message was continually Christ-centered and cross-centered, in its focus!

Furthermore, these born again believers were worshipping the Lord Jesus with the totality of their lives. They fully understood the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ had transformed them from rebels into worshippers! They had been immersed with a overwhelming passion to "live and die in such a manner", so that Jesus Christ might be magnified in their lives, as their Pearl of great price! So their lives were completely wrapped up in the worship of Jesus Christ and in witnessing for Jesus Christ. (Continued on p.2)

As a magnificent consequent, God was giving the increase; the word of God was advancing; and the disciples of Christ were multiplying!

Charles Spurgeon has well said, *"We are best equipped to testify to men and women, when we have been wrestling with God on behalf of those men and women"*.

In addition, these believers were men and women of fervent and faithful intercessory prayer. They had learned well from their "three year attendance" in our Lord's school of prayer. So they were now stirring themselves up to take hold of their Lord and God. These disciples knew a vital truth, which much of the contemporary church desperately needs to learn. For while the modern church is looking for more humanly invented techniques and tactics, God is looking for faithful intercessors, who will stand in the gap for the proliferation of the Word, the salvation of sinners and the multiplication of disciples! These original disciples had come to the corporate awareness that, "intercessory prayer is one of the highest privileges and holiest exercises

which is involved in a genuine relationship with our Lord"! As Charles Spurgeon has well said, *"We are best equipped to testify to men and women, when we have been wrestling with God on behalf of those men and women"*. And what was the fruit of this 'clear and concise Gospel preaching', by these men who knew of true and spiritual worship; and were intercessory prayers warriors?"

"...And a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith". This is not necessarily describing the members of the Sanhedrin. For we must remember that there were literally thousands of local priests, who were functioning in every town and village in Israel during the New Testament's early days. However, the vast majority of these "minor priests" had also bought into the "apostate Judaism" of the Pharisees. And yet, those priests had certainly heard the news concerning the miraculous rending of the veil of the temple, from top to bottom. Every one of them would have known that no human being could have torn that sacred covering, for that veil was said to have been four inches thick! They were also fully aware of the fact that this supernatural rending of the veil had occurred at the precise moment when the body of the Lord Jesus Christ was rent by death. Consequently, as these original disciples were proclaiming the glorious truth that, 'The Prince of Life', who had been crucified by their religious leaders, had been raised from the dead; and that God the Father had made this same Jesus both Lord and Christ. The Spirit of God was mightily applying the Gospel of Christ to the hearts of many of those priests. Friends, there was a supernatural revolution of regeneration taking place in the lives of many of these local priests! The Wind of God was blowing on their souls; and they were being born from above. These priests were jettisoning the shadows and symbols of the old Covenant. They were embracing the Person and Work of the Great High Priest, as both the substance and the fulfillment of all of the Old Testament symbols, shadows and ceremonies. These former resisters of the Lord Jesus had miraculously become "receivers of the Lord Jesus Christ".

Dear friends, "the Lord Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever"! The authentic Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the power of God unto salvation, for any sinner and every sinner who will turn from their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin 2017, may each of us commit, afresh and anew, to be fervent worshippers of Jesus and faithful witnesses for Jesus! Oh, may we cry out to the Holy Spirit to immerse our hearts, so that they will also be boiling over in adoration and allegiance to Jesus! Furthermore, may we make a new commitment to be faithful and fervent intercessors for the evangelism of the lost and the multiplication and maturing of disciples!

LET US BE:

**Fervent worshippers!
Faithful witnesses!
Intercessory Prayer
Warriors!**

KENYA PASTORS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 2016

The theme for this year's conference was entitled, "Redeemed to Worship". Much of that teaching can be found on our website at edlacyministries.org. However, I also added four new sessions, which was specifically written to confront the false 'health and wealth prosperity gospel', which has been contaminating much of the evangelical church in Africa. Dear friends our Lord and God, once again worked mightily in the lives of those hundreds of pastors and spiritual leaders. One pastor told me that he and his wife had travelled over 1,000 kilometers on an old bus to attend the conference.

They testified that, “we would not miss this annual conference, no matter how far that we must travel! This is God’s spiritual food for both our lives and ministry”!

It was quite an amazing week of ministry! The Spirit of God was powerfully applying His truth in every session. There were literally hundreds of testimonies, of the Spirit of God mightily applying the Word of God into the minds and hearts of these leaders! We even witnessed the attendance of a Catholic priest, who had been invited by one of the evangelical pastors! In the opening session, I was teaching the spiritual truth that, “everyone in the world worships something or someone; even an atheist worships himself as the center of his own universe”. I continued to state that, “If an individual is not worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ, (as He is revealed in the scriptures), then that person is involved in blasphemous idolatry against God”! I began to give multiple illustrations of the countless idolatries, which unconverted sinners are involved in. I commenced by employing the idol worship, which permeates the various “counterfeit world religions”. Since I am a former Roman Catholic, I spent quite a bit more time laying out the blasphemous idolatries, which permeate that “false, sacramental and works-based religion”! I laid out the evidences of the soul-damning lies of “the false gospel and false christ of that world religion”. I had no idea that a Roman Catholic priest was sitting on the back row in this audience of over 600 attendants. (Of course, I would have spoken the truth anyway!)

However, the amazing reality is that the priest did not get infuriated and storm out of the auditorium. As a matter of fact, he stayed on the back row for the entire day of teaching. And to our amazement, on the second day of the conference, he moved from the back row to the 4th row! This priest’s entire life had been invested in this system of a “salvation by man-made ceremonies”. Oh, but the Spirit of truth and the Word of truth were opening the eyes of his mind and drawing him to the Lord Jesus of the scriptures. As you will read, in just a moment, he later testified to one the directors of this conference that, “He had been converted to the true Christ, during those 18 hours of teaching the Word!” Dear friends, I could literally write a book which would be overflowing with the personal testimonies of what God has done and continues to do in the lives and ministries of these hundreds of pastors! But instead, I desire to have my dear friend Dr. George Wafula, the Director of Kenya Ministries Training Institute, give his personal perspective on this year’s conference. Dr. Wafula, is also the precious brother who is the interpreter for every session in all of these conferences; as well as, one of the key organizers and directors of the annual conference at the KMTI center.

Brother George testifies, **“We just concluded a power-packed and life-transforming conference at KMTI! I am so grateful to the Lord for all that He accomplished in the lives of all of those spiritual leaders who were in attendance. Allow me to share just a couple of the hundreds of testimonies. Pastor Joel Nandokha from Sirisia, Bungoma attended this conference for the first time. He testified to me passionately that, ‘He has attended many seminars and conferences which have been hosted by different ministries in his ministry life; but he has never (in his entire pastoral life) attended a conference, which the Lord has so powerfully opened his eyes and illuminated his mind to see the truth.’ He further confessed that, ‘all that he had been teaching about the life of Job had been false doctrine! Moreover, he asked the Lord to forgive him for all of the error that he had been teaching to others.’ Pastor Joel also confessed to me that ‘he was going home to pour the truths, which he had received in these days, into the lives of his church members.’ There was another pastor’s wife who was being accommodated at my house, because she was due to have a baby in two weeks. For this reason, she couldn’t sleep on the floor with the other women for 4 days. This lady was also attending the ‘Ed Lacy annual conference’ for the first time, because of the tremendous testimony of her pastor husband, who has been attending the meetings since 2014. This pastor’s wife had planned to attend the conference for only one day and then return to her home, due to the condition that she was soon to give birth! However, after listening to Bro. Ed preaching the truth in the power of the Holy Spirit, she decided to stay for the entire 4 full days of teaching. This dear sister, who is called Critchen, had been through so many health challenges and trials in recent months. She had sadly reached a place in her life, in which she was becoming bitter with God and giving up on God. Oh, but the word of God came to her in mighty power! She testified to me that this particular teaching had removed a veil from her eyes, concerning all of the health crises that she had been passing through.** *(Continued on following page)*

She came to the personal realization that God is totally sovereign in all things in her life, (including the bad things that had been happening in her life). She further came to the personal understanding that, 'the devil' can do nothing in her life, unless God allows it! And if God permits it, then He has a sovereign and wise purpose for allowing it. This truth became a life-changing truth for this sister. She saw the truth of the word of God in such a new and living way, that her mind was radically and permanently renovated. She testified to my wife, Joy and I for many hours. She passionately declared that, 'God had personally planned this conference for no one else but her!'

Also, there was a Roman Catholic priest who was in attendance this year! This man had been invited by one of our pastors, who has been attending Ed Lacy conferences from the beginning. On the first day, this Catholic priest came in and sat right at the back of the hall. He was listening keenly to every word from Bro. Ed's mouth. On the 2nd day of the conference, I noticed that he came in very early and sat quietly on the front chairs. At the end of each day of teaching, he would come to me and confess that the word of God had blessed his life in a powerful way. The last day before he left, he came and grabbed my hand and said, "Thank you for allowing me to attend this meeting; it has radically changed my life. I will never be the same again!"

It was amazing to see the hundreds of pastors and senior overseers, who were taking '2 Inch mattresses' and sleeping on the hard floors, in both our teaching hall and our guest houses, for 4 full days! These pastors slept on the floor joyfully, because of the truths, which they were hearing from the fruit of Bro. Ed's study of the Word of God. I know of many conferences in Kenya and Uganda, where pastors and overseers are promised to be accommodated in nice hotels and guesthouses. However, not many of these pastors are excited to attend, because they get nothing of spiritual significance from these meetings. But friends, I am grateful to the LORD for the favor that He has given to our brother, Ed Lacy, to come every year to teach us the word of God. I truly believe that our Lord continues to grace Bro. Ed with the word that the church in Africa needs today. I am forever thankful to his wife, Dianne, and all those who pray for him and support his ministry. The church in East Africa is being enlightened and edified through this ministry." George Wafula - Director of Kenya Ministries Training Institute

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL

MAY YOU EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY A CHRIST-CENTERED 2017!

Dianne and I really cannot put into words, the overwhelming gratitude that floods our hearts, when God brings you to our remembrance. I am reminded of these following powerful words of truth from the Apostle John, "This is how we know that we have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life, because we love the brethren". So many of you have been a living testimony of this passage to us through the years, (and especially in this past year and half, throughout my intense illness and recovery). God has provided for every single one of the needs that was presented to us. Also, He graciously provided in supplying the needs, enabling us to fulfill our commitments to give to all of the foreign missionaries, which we regularly support! We were able to be faithful with all of that foreign support, even though I faced 8 of the last 12 months in serious illness and recovery! However, God does not drop this amazing provision out of the clouds. He uses other born again brothers and sisters in Christ, who manifest the supernatural, sacrificial and sharing love of Christ to our lives and ministry! Dear brothers and sisters, many of you have been that channel of blessing to us personally; as well as, to the ministry that our Lord has called us to fulfill. The testimony of your love, prayers and giving to us continues to be used in countless ways, to encourage and spur not only us, but also the faith of others. We just want to express our love and thankfulness to you for coming alongside of us, and this ministry, in such a loving and gracious way. It is our prayer for you, in this new year of 2017, that you will be "filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." We love you dear ones and continue to pray for you.

*Abiding in Him,
Ed & Dianne Lacy*