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DOING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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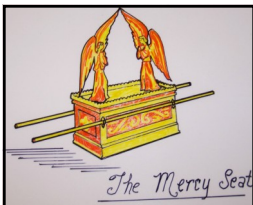
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

In the late 1800's, five college students were spending a summer Sunday in London. They purposed to attend worship to hear the famous pastor Charles Spurgeon preach the Word of God. While they were waiting for the doors to open, the students were kindly greeted by a man who invited them in and said, "Gentleman, let me show you around the facility. Would you like to see the boiler room?". During Spurgeon's era, the boiler room was the place where steam was generated to heat the church, during the cold winters in London. A boiler room would not be a pleasant place to visit. Usually it was in the basement area. It would have been dirty, hot and uncomfortable. These young men were not necessarily interested in a tour of the boiler room, especially in the middle of summertime. But they did not want to offend the stranger who had been so kind to them, so they consented to visit the church's boiler room. The young students were then taken down a stairway; then a door was quietly opened by the stranger; and then he whispered to them, **"This is our boiler room!"** The students beheld approximately 700 people, who were bowed in intercessory prayer, seeking the blessings of the Holy Spirit on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above! Then the tour guide introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon! Even though Spurgeon was well known as the "prince of preachers", he never took credit for the success of his ministry. He always pointed to his Lord and Savior, who was answering the intercessory prayers of the hundreds of people who were seeking His face and His blessings, upon His Word and His servants!



Brothers and sisters, while the contemporary church is looking for more "humanly invented techniques and tactics" in their attempt to carry out the Lord's mission; God is looking for faithful intercessors. He is looking for intercessors who will stir themselves up to take hold of God; He is seeking those who will reject indifference and apathy; those who will reject religious gimmicks and gadgets; and who will fasten themselves to the Lord and not let Him go until He answers and blesses!

Intercession is one of the highest privileges and holiest exercises involved with our intimate relationship with God. Friends, we are never more like our Lord and Savior, than when we are interceding for others. The Word of God tells us, **"We are a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God."** One of the most important privileges of a New Testament priest is the reality that we have access to God, to intercede for the spiritual benefit of others! While it is true that God accepts our petitions for our needs and ourselves; I submit to you that our intercessory prayers on behalf of others are the "most pleasing" prayers that we can offer to our Lord! We could certainly say that the true secret of all spiritual victories is intimately connected with our prevailing intercession at the foot of the mercy seat.



Oh, precious believer, there is no greater blessing than to be used by God, in heart-felt intercession; so that we might be His instruments in his great work of “making men His holy habitation”! Charles Spurgeon once said, “We must plead with God on behalf of men; before we plead with men on behalf of God. We are best equipped to testify to men and women, when we have been wrestling with God on behalf of those men and women”. I believe that the great crisis that is facing America is **not** in the White House; but, it is in the **Church House!** The only hope for this nation is another “great awakening”! And the only hope for another “great awakening”, within this increasingly pagan nation, must begin with an authentic **revival** within the true body of Christ. And friends, there has **never** been a genuine revival in the church, nor a spiritual awakening in a nation, that did not begin with passionate, persistent, intercessory prayer! Oh that God would raise up an army of intercessors all over this nation, who will intercede, with a holy anguish in their souls, for a “Christ-focused, Word-centered, God exalting revival”. Our God is a “prayer-answering” Father; so may we be found at His mercy seat, being involved in passionate, persistent, intercession for a revival in the body of Christ; and a great awakening in this nation; for the glory of our Lord and Savior!

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FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE NICARAGUAN BAPTISTS

Approximately a year ago, I had the privilege to teach the National Pastors’ Conference of the Evangelical Mennonite Convention of Nicaragua. It was a glorious opportunity not only to teach the ‘Christ-Centered Evangelism’ study to these brothers; but also, to see many Mennonite pastors return to a personal commitment to do “God’s work; God’s way; for God’s glory”! Over the years, I have had numerous opportunities to teach this study to hundreds of Nicaraguan pastors for many different denominations. However, I had not yet had the opportunity to teach any of our many Spanish workbooks to a conference of Baptist pastors! Of course, since I am a Baptist evangelist, I had been interceding for an “open door” into the Nicaraguan Baptists. During the Mennonite convention, I met a pastor named Manuel Garcia, who is a Baptist pastor; and also, the professor of the New Testament at the Baptist Seminary in Managua. Pastor Manuel had been sitting on the front row at the Mennonite Conference, all week long! A Mennonite brother in Christ had invited him to attend the conference. Near the end of the week, Pastor Manuel approached me and said, “I have been interceding about a burden that the Lord has given me, to hold our first National Congress for the pastors of the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention. I have been praying for God to send the man to come and teach this conference. Bro. Ed, would you pray about being that man?” I told him, “I don’t have to pray about being the preacher for this conference; for I have already been interceding that the Lord would open this door into the Baptists of Nicaragua! This is an answer to my intercession.”

Revelation 3:8 rings in my heart, as I have just returned from teaching 14 sessions at the 1st National Congress of the Baptist pastors of Nicaragua. There the Lord Jesus declares, **“See I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.”** I am so grateful to God for this new door of opportunity to proclaim the Word of God to these precious Baptist pastors, from all over the nation of Nicaragua. I had the joy of teaching one of my Spanish workbooks entitled, **“The Biblical Path To An Effective Prayer Life”** at the Baptist seminary in Managua. Friends, it was quite a miracle that I would be teaching at this seminary; for in the late 70’s, the curse of liberation theology began to infiltrate the Nicaraguan Baptist convention, through some seminary professors. There were many pastors who had been contaminated with these false teachings. But in recent years, many of the Baptist pastors have been returning to the truth of the Word of God. Pastor Manuel is one of those pastors. He had been praying for God to open an opportunity to have a national convention for all of the Baptist pastors. He had also been praying for God to send a conservative Baptist preacher from America to be that teacher at this conference. (continued on next page)



Pastor Manuel did not realize it, but, simultaneously, I had been praying for an “open door” into the Baptist convention. So the very fact that this conference became a reality was an amazing answer to both of our prayers! The Lord not only opened the door to teach, but He also provided approximately \$10,000 of funds for us to supply all of the meals, the workbooks, and the bus expenses for all of the pastors to come to the seminary. That abundant supply was also provided as an answer to prayer and the loving generosity of brothers and sisters like **YOU!**

The Nicaraguan pastors gathered from all over the nation to sit under the Word of God, for these sessions that occurred over 3 1/2 days. The heat was so oppressive; and there is no air conditioner in the seminary-meeting hall. But the Holy Spirit gave me, my interpreter and the pastors great strength and wonderful concentration in all of the sessions. I took the first 4 sessions to teach about “Confidence In Prayer”. The pastors sat intently listening to every sentence. You could literally sense the Holy Spirit steadily building a deeper confidence in the Lord, as we progressed through each session. When I would give personal testimonies in my life and ministry, of how the Lord built our confidence in Him, through miraculous answers to prayer, the pastors would break into spontaneous applause, for the glory of our God and King! I then moved to 2 sessions, in which I taught on “Praying In The Spirit”; and then 2 more sessions concerning “Persevering In Prayer”. As I shared the testimony of my father’s conversion after 26 years of persistent evangelistic intercession, there was weeping and rejoicing throughout the hall! During the last 6 sessions, I taught on:

- ◆ The Importance Of Praise And Thanksgiving In Prayer
- ◆ Confession Of Personal Sin In Prayer – 2 sessions
- ◆ Intercessory Prayer – 2 sessions **and**
- ◆ Our Personal Petitions



Of course, there is neither the time nor the space in this newsletter, to even begin to share all of the testimonies from the pastors, in relation to how the Lord worked in their lives. I will only say that the entire group of pastors responded, by sharing many wonderful testimonies of how the Holy Spirit mightily applied these essential truths to their lives. Most of the pastors were seeking extra workbooks, so that they could make copies and teach these truths to their congregations. This is always a great joy and encouragement, when the ones that we are teaching exhibit a passion and purpose to pass on these truths to their flocks. There was a unanimous call from among the pastors for me to return next year; to teach the study on ‘Christ-Centered Evangelism’” This certainly appears to be a glorious and miraculous door that the Lord has opened; and I want to continue to walk through it, as long as He keeps it open! I am so grateful for many of you who were personally involved in intercessory prayer for this conference, during these days.

EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE IN NICARAGUA

While in Nicaragua, we also held a three-day evangelistic crusade in the church where Manuel pastors. First Baptist Church of Nandasmo is about 1 hour outside of Managua. Each evening, the church was filled with many visitors, in whom we had the joy of planting the “Gospel Seed”. There was an unusual amount of **men**, who testified of being converted to the Lord Jesus, during these days. This was very exciting and encouraging, when you consider the proud, macho attitude that so many Latin American men possess and express in their lifestyles! On the last evening, every seat was taken, and there were about 50 people standing outside! It was a precious opportunity to proclaim the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ! Please pray for “fruit that remains”, for the glory of our Savior and Lord!

CHRIST-CENTERED EVANGELISM - LAUREL, MARYLAND

I rejoice in the awesome work that the Holy Spirit accomplished in the midst of the precious body of Christ, at Faith Baptist Church in Laurel, Maryland. This city is a bedroom community of Washington D.C. This wonderful body of believers is an extremely diverse group! There are brothers and sisters from 10 different nations, which are actively involved in this local church. The conference was wonderfully attended by the church; but also, by the Holy Spirit, as He powerfully applied His truths to our lives. Dr. Paul Mathenia, the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, gives us his thoughts concerning the conference. **“As a pastor for the last 39 years, I can confidently say that I have never hosted a more profitable seminar than “Christ-Centered Evangelism”! It was truly a great blessing to hear these teachings on Biblical Evangelism presented so clearly, confidently and compassionately. Bro. Ed, your love for the Savior and for souls is obvious to all who had the privilege of hearing you. It can be sadly amazing, that many of man’s ideas have distracted us from the truths of the Bible, when it comes to personal and even corporate evangelism. What a blessing to learn how to do ‘God’s work; God’s way; for God’s glory’! Many of our people confessed that they had misunderstood, how to do the work of evangelism in a manner that magnifies Jesus. God is using you to reveal how we need to return to His command to make disciples; and not just get decisions! I must also personally confess that the Holy Spirit allowed me to see many things that I was shocked that I had not noticed before. By the Lord’s grace, I believe that this teaching will greatly improve my personal witnessing, in both its passion and its practice. I want to encourage any pastors or organizations to prayerfully consider hosting this ‘Christ-Centered Evangelism’ seminar. One thing is clear; this seminar will help you to bring your evangelistic efforts into line with your biblical theology. I praise God for this ‘life-changing’ conference.”**

I had the joy of preaching the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ at a Correctional Facility in SC. The place was packed with prisoners, who voluntarily attended the service. Then on Sunday morning, it was a precious blessing to preach at Brookleigh Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC. However, Hurricane Isaac caused us to temporarily postpone the evangelistic crusade that was scheduled to take place at Industrial Electroplating Corporation in Gastonia. After Sunday services, I learned that Mobile was in the projected “bull’s eye” of the oncoming storm. Upon hearing that news, we knew that I needed to return home to be with my family. We have rescheduled the evangelistic meeting for November. Thankfully, the storm did not hit Mobile, , we only experienced a tremendous amount of rain.

THANKFUL FOR YOUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Dianne and I want to say, from our hearts, that **You** are an answer to pray in our lives and ministry. Our hearts are flooded with joy, when we think of how our Lord has placed you within our lives, to join us, as we follow our Master and fish for men together! With give thanks to our God always for you all! We absolutely treasure your intercessory prayer and your generous support to what God has called us to do. Every soul that is converted; every church planter or pastor that is encouraged and taught; every believer that is refreshed and revived through the teaching, preaching and witnessing of this preacher, is an answer to the intercessory prayers and sacrificial gifts of believers, who are walking in step with the Spirit of God! May you be reminded, in these days of testing and turmoil, that our “God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work”. We love you in the Lord Jesus Christ and pray for you with a heart of thanksgiving.

ED & DIANNE LACY