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

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NEWSLETTER

December 2007

FOREIGN MISSION WORK

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

The prophet Isaiah declared in Isaiah 55:1-8, one of the most compelling evangelistic passages in all of the scriptures. He concluded this invitation to life, sharing these encouraging words in verses 10-11, **“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”** It is no accident that these encouraging verses come on the heels of one of the most evangelistic passages in the entire Bible. Whether I preach the glorious “Good News” to large congregations of people or witness to someone in a “one-on-one” encounter, it is vital for me to remember God’s wonderful promise found in these verses. Friends, there is an infinite chasm between God, in His majestic holiness, and man, in his destitute sinfulness. There is absolutely no hope that sinful man can ever bridge that gap on His own. But God, by His grace, promises us that when we share the living Word of God with unconverted sinners, God is literally crossing that chasm between heaven and earth, to meet with them and invite them “to be converted, so that their sins may be blotted out”! When we declare His Gospel to sinners, God comes as near as the rain or the snow on their heads. His Word is the only supernatural Seed and the only source of spiritual life.

In the parable of the 4 soils, Jesus told his disciples that the seed is the Word of God. It is a living Seed. It is an incorruptible Seed. It is the only Seed that can produce spiritual life in a deadened soul, give spiritual light in a darkened heart and grant spiritual liberty in a captive will. When God, by the Holy Spirit, mightily sends His Word into a person that is dead in trespasses and sins, that supernatural Seed penetrates the soul and transforms the heart! When that sinner repents and believes the Gospel, they are transferred into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son. God says that His Word comes like a refreshing rain to a dry and weary land. It comes as the living Seed to bring forth fruit for God’s glory! God promises that when the Word of God comes, not in word only, but in a demonstration of the Holy Spirit, it shall accomplish that which He pleases; and prosper in the thing which He has sent it. Isn’t that a wonderful and encouraging promise to our hearts? Certainly, there are times when the Word may seem as if it is falling on the barren desert of a hardened heart. Yet, even that seemingly useless encounter fulfills some purpose of God. We must never forget that the Seed may work it’s glorious change and yield a harvest at a later time; and even if it does not, that person will be ‘without excuse’ on that great and final day! It is simply our responsibility to pray with passion and perseverance; to purpose to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord; and take opportunities to sow the “supernatural seed” of the Word of God! As we begin a new year, may each of us make a new commitment to be faithful sowers of the Gospel Seed, for the glory of our Lord and Savior!



Invitations for 2008

- ° Kenya
- ° Cuba
- ° Nicaragua
- ° Uganda
- ° Romania
- ° Russia
- ° Peru

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

JANUARY 6

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
GRAND BAY, AL

JANUARY 13 –16

FAIRHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
DEMOPOLIS, AL

FEBRUARY 1 & 2

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 17—20

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
NAVARRE, FL

FEBRUARY 17-20

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
BATON ROUGE, LA

MARCH 2-5

PLEASANTVIEW BAPTIST
CHURCH
CORDELE, GA

Testimony by Walter Prescott

Brother Walter recently sent an e-mail sharing that people from the crusade have already testified to Pastor Tet that they have been born from above, through the preaching of God's Word. We have a great confidence that many others will be taking him aside to testify, **"I have become a repentor; I am ready to be baptized publicly."** Walter also shared the story of one of his employees that was present in the recent outreach I preached at his business in Gastonia. This employee attended their Thanksgiving service at their home church in Gastonia, NC. Many in the congregation were sharing their gratefulness that the Lord had brought them through the narrow gate of authentic conversion. As others were sharing their testimony, this man knew in his heart that **he did not have a testimony of salvation.** God kept bringing this man's mind back to a message that I had preached, months prior to this, on the Narrow Gate. He realized that he was lost in his sins; and he began to cry out to the Lord to have mercy on his soul. On the following Sunday morning, this man shared before the church congregation that he had been wonderfully converted! The Word of God had, once again, prospered in the thing for which God had sent it.

On the same day, I received another e-mail from a pastor, who ministers in N. Alabama. He shared that a man, who I had the joy of witnessing to 5 years ago, had just repented and believed the Gospel! This precious pastor had recently been witnessing to him once again. This man is now testifying that he has been saved by the grace of God! Friend, it may take 5 years; it may take 50, but the Word of God shall not return void.

Even the CANTOR from the Orthodox Church attended and had questions about the God's Word!

THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S MIGHTY WORKS THROUGH

HIS WORD IN ROMANIA

We saw God fulfilling these glorious promises with our own eyes, in the recent Romania mission trip. Once again, Dianne and I were given the tremendous opportunity to serve with our dear friends, Walter and Amelia Prescott, as we travelled to this former communist country. God is using Bro. Walter, Amelia and their church family at Brookleigh Baptist in an amazing way, in this on-going "village church-planting ministry". It is absolutely awesome to see how the Lord has used the Prescott family and their local church to impact an entire area of villages, for the glory of God and the extension of His Kingdom. Pastor Radu Tet, who is the pastor that they co-labor with, is an indigenous 'church-

planter' who has dedicated his life for this vital ministry.

On this particular trip, we were serving in the new 'church plant' in Majesti and another village church in Dobrinesti. It is amazing to see how the Lord has worked through Pastor Tet and his family, to plant these churches, in an area where there had been NO GOSPEL WORK! When I preach these evangelistic crusades with Pastor Tet, both last year and this year, he said, **"There will be no 'raising of the hands' at the close of the message; there will be no attempts to get people to repeat a prayer and walk to the front of the building. For these**

tactics do not exist in the New Testament evangelism. We will pray, we will witness, we will invite; and we will preach the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ!" You may ask, "Ed, then how do people make a public profession of their faith?" The same way they did in the book of Acts, through Believer's Baptism. The people who have attended the meetings and have been born again, will come to the pastor during the following days or weeks and testify to him, **'I have been converted to Christ! I have become a Repentor! I must be baptized!'**

THEY COULD PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR BEING A 'REPENTOR'!

When a person from an Orthodox family is baptized as a "Repentor", (which is what Christians are called by the Orthodox church in Romania), there could be an extremely high price that is paid by that person. They could be ostracized by their family, friends and the Orthodox church. However, Glory to God, there are many adults and youth, who have counted the cost, and followed the Lord in 'believer's baptism'. On the first day of our meeting, there were 130 people in attendance on Sunday morning. Just 1 1/2 years ago, there wasn't even a church there! Hallelujah! But just as the rain and the snow comes on Majesti from heaven, God's Word has mightily gone forth into the souls of many Romanians.

The outreach in Dobrinesti was especially blessed of the Lord. Some walked for long distances to hear the Word of God. We know of one man and his wife that walked for 2 hours. Another man and his wife, who are new believers, came on their tractor. It was such a blessing to see the joy on their countenance and their hunger to hear the

Word. That night the building was so crowded that people were literally surrounding the pulpit. Everyone in the room seemed to be engaged in the proclamation of the Word of God. Their eyes were fixed on us, as we delivered the truths concerning the Cross of our Lord. The awesome presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident in the preaching of His Word. There was such a freedom throughout the message, that it was as if Pastor Tet and I were one voice. Adults were openly weeping over their souls and the souls of others. Even the Cantor for the Orthodox church came to the meeting. After the service, he stayed and conversed for quite a long time. He was obviously stirred by the message. He asked if our Bible was the same that they preached from! It was apparent that he was saying that he had never heard a message like this before. Praise the name of the Living Word of God!

CHRIST CENTERED EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

I had the privilege of teaching **CHRIST CENTERED EVANGELISM** at First Baptist Church, in Killen, Al, since our last newsletter. This was the most well attended” conference on evangelism that I have experienced in the states. Pastor David McKelvey shared the following testimony concerning this conference. **“We are continuing to experience God’s working through this conference; and we expect to continue for years to come! I have just completed a follow-up series of preaching, which was generated from the truths that we learned from Christ Centered Evangelism. Our people have been revolutionized from the principles of ‘being true to the real gospel of Jesus Christ’! I sense from our leadership and our core membership that they are equipped and eager to use what they have learned. Their excitement over the teaching was not only evident by the faithfulness in attendance night after night; but also by the receptivity to the systematic evangelistic teaching that this conference facilitates. I have been in full-time pastoral ministry for 23 years and a believer for 40 years. In all of those years, I have never**

heard a testimony as powerfully moving and theologically sound as the one that I heard from a young mother, who attended the conference. From her participation in the conference, she came to realize that she had bought into the deception which is rampant within unsound evangelism. During the conference teaching, ‘she was gloriously converted to Christ’! Within her testimony, she gave thanks for the wisdom in hosting this conference, for God used it to impact and transform her life. Today, she is giving evidence of authentic conversion, not only obedience, (which she came to obey), but, also through her me, seeking to through the biblical indicators of authentic conversion! Friends, God is using ‘Christ Centered Evangelism’ as an accurate and powerful tool to help our churches return to evangelism, according to the apostles.” Precious friend, this is another living testimony of God’s promise, “His Word never returns void”!

Pastor David says, “I have never heard a testimony as powerfully moving and theologically sound!”

OUR HEARTS OUR FILLED WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE!

Dianne and I, both, want to testify how grateful we are to our Lord and Savior, for the mighty workings of His Word through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, in the lives of the thousands of souls in 2007! Friends, there will be rejoicing in the presence of angels, if only One Sinner truly comes to repentance. Yet, we have been given reports that many, many souls, on continents all over this world are giving evidence of the authentic ‘fruits of repentance’, both in the conversion of the lost and the revival of the saints. We have seen the transforming power of God’s Word in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central American, Asia and the United States!

We have received numerous reports of people all over the world, who are listening to the sermons on sermon audio.com.

We have seen much fruit for the glory of God, in evangelistic crusades, witnessing in homes, Bible Conferences, and prison crusades. We have been given scores of glorious testimonies of genuine conversions and personal revival, by God’s grace and for God’s glory!

Even though there was a temporary postponement in our on-going Cuba outreach ministry, we see this as a ‘temporary sabbatical’ and not a “permanently closed door”! God has given me the privilege of walking through those communist customs successfully on 44 occasions since 1996. So, I am not going to quit after 2 negative experiences. I am extremely grateful for every soul that has been transformed through the evangelistic crusades in Cuba; for every pastor and church planter that has been taught God’s Word; and for every church building that has been built.

(CONTINUED ON P. 4)

PRAYER CONFERENCE

God gave me the blessed opportunity to teach the workbook that I have compiled entitled, **“The Biblical Path to an Effective Prayer Life”**, at Carlisle Baptist Church in Panama City, Fl, with my dear friend, Pastor Randy Kuhn. From the very first session, it was obvious that the Holy Spirit was working in awesome ‘life-transforming’ power in the lives of His people. Bro. Randy gives another glorious testimony of **THE SEED** bringing forth much fruit for God’s Glory. He writes, **“This conference on prayer was a sweet refreshment to my soul. Thank you dear brother, for your faithful exposition of the Word of God, and for your sacrificial ‘living out’ of what you teach. I want you to know what an incredible blessing it was to have you teach ‘The Biblical Path to an Effective Prayer life’ in our church. As you taught the Word, the Lord brought challenge, conviction, comfort and encouragement to my own heart, as well as our church family. I have made a public commitment to the Lord to never allow my prayer life to return to where it was before. The days since the conference I have found my prayer times more consistent, more meaningful, and much sweeter. I have found a new passion in my praying and a new compassion for the lost. Yesterday, I knelt in my office and prayed for a young couple who I had an opportunity to witness to. As I was praying, I found that my tears were wetting the couch where I was kneeling. There was an intensity in my soul that had not been in my ‘prayer life’ for a long time. This morning, I woke up at 3 a.m. and found myself praying over some people and circumstances that were on my heart. I had about an hour of sweet intercession before I went back to bed. My heart seems to be much more inclined to pray and much more tender to the Holy Spirit in these days. (continued on p. 4)**

It was a special joy to be the preacher at the annual prison crusade, which is sponsored by the Winn Baptist Association, at the Winn Correctional Facility in North Louisiana. The Director of Missions, Bro. Clovis Sturdivant, invited me to preach at the 3-night crusade for the 2nd consecutive year. There was a precious group of pastors and laymen from several churches representing that association, who entered with us to witness to the prisoners, nightly. There was great liberty to preach the Gospel from the very first evening. Friends, it is an awesome experience to stand before these men whose lives have been utterly devastated by their sin, and know, that as I preach the Word of God, there is power within the Gospel, to set the captives free! There were many prisoners who testified that they had responded to the gospel, in repentance and faith, in the Lord Jesus Christ. As always, we are praying for fruit that remains. But we have a certain confidence that God's Word did not return void; but it accomplished the purpose for which He sent it through this earthen vessel.

I find that where my eyes had often been dry before, my heart is moved to tears much more quickly now! I cannot tell you how grateful I am for what the LORD has done in my life, in these days. I believe that the impact of this prayer seminar has touched many more in our congregation. I believe that we are going to be reaping fruit for months and years to come. May the Lord continue to open many more doors for you to share these wonderful truths with many congregations. I believe that this conference was providential for us. I believe that the Lord brought us His message, at just the time that we need it most."

Oh precious friend, God's Word is living and powerful. It **NEVER RETURNS VOID!** God accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it; **WHAT AN ENCOURAGEMENT!**

We saw a very similar response from this teaching at Quitman Baptist Church in La. Pastor Donald Rudd shares, **"These truths were not only timely, but extremely beneficial. God had already been speaking powerfully to us about the need for a renewed commitment to prayer. We had been asking Him, as His disciples asked, "Teach us to pray". God has answered that prayer through this teaching on "The Biblical Path to an Effective Prayer Life"! God has taught us so many things through this conference. He has called us to pray more fervently; He has taught us what it means to pray in the Spirit; He has instructed us concerning what it means to pray in faith; He taught us how to pray more biblically, within the Will of God; He has challenged us to pray with passion; He has shown us how to put feet to our prayers! These are just a few of the comments from our congregation, concerning how the Lord, personally, impacted their lives on this essential issue of prayer. It is exciting to anticipate where God will lead us and how He will use us, in reaching the lost and equipping believers, through the lasting impact of this conference."**

Friend, only our God, using His Word, by His Holy Spirit, can bear fruit like this. Glory to His Name!

(CONTINUED FROM P. 3)

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE!

We rejoice over each pastor and church planter that has been spiritually and financially supported and even the on-going support that we have been able to give to the seminary. Please pray for an open door for us to get the necessary funds to the 13 church planters and the seminary, for their annual support. We ask you to "stand in the gap" that God will supernaturally provide the way, before we are scheduled to return in June. We are confident that even this temporary refusal of a 'religious visa' works together for the GOOD. The Lord could have well been protecting us from something far more serious. We may never know the details until we reach Heaven. But, we can trust Him completely, even in this temporary setback.

We say all this, to express to you how extremely grateful we are for your faithful and loving support of us and the ministry that God has so graciously bestowed on us. At the beginning of 2007, we looked at the opportunities that was put before us. We recognized quickly it would be an impossible undertaking

unless God provided the funds and the strength to carry them out. God made it possible and He used you to meet the needs. How can we possibly express our love and thanksgiving for all you have done for us. Thank you. We both know that your gifts of love, prayer and financial support, are a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice to God. May this be our supreme ambition this coming year, **"To present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God; for this is your spiritual service of worship"**. Friend, my prayer for all of us is that we will faithfully place the totality of our lives at the disposal of the Lord, so that we might get in on His Agendas for our lives and bear much fruit, for His Name Sake in this New Year!

As you noticed from our last newsletter, Dianne is learning a new program and is formatting our newsletter differently. We trust that it is better for you.

Your friends and bondservants,

Ed & Dianne Lacy