

ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.

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

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ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS!

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

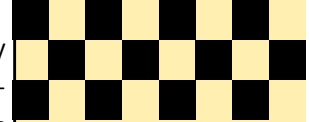
Upon the conclusion of our recent Cuban outreach, the missionaries, church planters and lay leaders gave Bro. Garry Morrison and me the following words of gratitude, found in 2 Cor. 9:9-10— **As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness....** I am quite aware that THE ONE and only explanation for the transforming work in the lives of these church planters and spiritual leaders, is the marvelous grace of God; both in His enablement of our labor and His promise to empower His Word. We declare, as did the prophet in Isaiah 26:12, **“For you have also done all of our works for us.”** Both Garry and I realize that only God can give true spiritual success to our ministry. So we pray, along with the Psalmist, **“Establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”** We know the fruitful labor which has been accomplished in Cuba is totally due to the fact that our gracious Lord has established the works of our hands.

In my devotion time this week, I was reminded of a story about Charles Spurgeon. Spurgeon once told his students, “Your ministry is poor enough; everyone knows it, and you ought to know it most of all! Your preaching is effective **ONLY** because God keeps His promise that His Word will not return void”. These words caused me to think of another statement by Martyn Lloyd Jones, a great preacher of a former generation, about his own preaching. He said, “I would not cross the street to hear myself preach!” If this mighty man of God made this honest evaluation of his efforts, I must say that I would not place one of my feet ahead of the other to hear myself preach. But praise God—He keeps His promise— His word will not return void!

Throughout this conference, we were very conscious of that promise, as we taught His Word. These precious brothers and their wives stood before us, weeping and rejoicing, as they testified of the Holy Spirit’s working in their souls. The Spirit of God was transforming their character and conduct, through the Word that was planted during that conference. I only wish that I could transport each of you into one of those sessions, so that you might sense the mighty workings of God in that place. It is an awesome privilege to sow the ‘life-transforming’ seed of God’s Word into the lives of these precious leaders, from all over the eastern half of communist Cuba. What a blessing to have the confidence that the Word that was preached **will** accomplish the purpose for which He has sent it.

The Lord has so graciously given us many wonderful opportunities to teach the Word of God to church planters, pastors and lay leaders; both in Holguin and Santiago de Cuba in these ‘bi-annual’ Bible Institutes. As you know, we have always committed to provide the teaching materials, the food and travel expenses for these conferences. Their commitment is to sacrifice a

JULY 2008



Upcoming Schedule

July 20-26

Nicaragua

August 10-13

Foster Road Baptist

Baton Rouge, LA

August 18-25

Uganda

September 7-10

New Hope Baptist

Perry, Fl

September 15-17

Jackson Parish Prison

Crusade, La.

September 18-20

Winn Correctional

Quitman, La

week, to be absent from their family and church flock; to travel under very difficult conditions, and sit under the teaching ministry of the Word of God. It has been our passion and purpose to be a channel of blessing to the leaders and believers of the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba. These channels cover various areas, such as biblical training, spiritual needs, crusades, evangelism, one-on-one evangelism training, material and financial needs. God has truly done exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we could have asked or thought in these matters. Upon reading their notes on the flight home, I knew that our God, in spite of many and various obstacles we encountered along the way, had answered our prayers once again. We do not know what the future holds for Cuba, but we do know WHO holds the future. Both Garry and I can testify that we are extremely grateful for this wonderful privilege to serve the Lord; and we are willing to go, as His servants, as long as this door is open.

TEACHING ON THE BEATITUDES

Our teaching was entitled, “The Key To Supreme Happiness And Spiritual Prosperity”, a workbook that I developed from the Beatitudes. This is the introduction of the greatest sermon that has ever been preached; by the greatest man who ever lived, (the God-Man), the Lord Jesus Christ. Great preachers from past centuries have called these verses, ‘The Golden Ladder of Light’. They have entitled them in this manner, because each beatitude springs forth from the previous one; and each one rises above the prior beatitude. Yet, each rung of this ladder is fully complete and whole within itself. I have found these timeless truths not only to be a foundational teaching for newly born disciples, but they are also filled with profound principles for the most mature follower of the Lord Jesus to emulate.

As always, Garry and I were teaching in the midst of sweltering heat, throughout the day, with NO A/C! We were in desperate need of the Lord’s power and provision, both spiritually and physically. God graciously supplied us with His all-sufficient grace to concentrate on each moment of preaching and deliver His truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. During the morning of the first day, we could sense that many of the missionaries were exhausted from their difficult travels. However, as the morning progressed, there was an awareness that the Holy Spirit was quickening the congregation to receive His Truth with their full attention and receptivity. We experienced great liberty and power in the delivery of the Word of God. Allow me to give an small example of what took place that first day.

- ◆ **Blessed are the poor in Spirit**— As we taught and applied this 1st beatitude, we knew in our souls that the Holy Spirit was powerfully teaching His people about the true realities of a life of authentic humility. He was effectually revealing how a life of humility before God and men, is “first base” in our lives and our ministries.
- ◆ **Blessed are those who mourn**—We witnessed the Holy Spirit planting a brokenness and contrition over sin in the lives of many in the room, through the Biblical principles found in this beatitude. These spiritual leaders were coming under conviction and mourning over sins of omission or co-mission in their lives and openly confessing and repenting of their sins.
- ◆ **Blessed are the meek**—**This 3rd session** seemed to be especially anointed by the Holy Spirit, as we taught through the manifestations of true meekness. We stated that these manifestations would be:
 1. Compliance to the Will of God
 2. Contentment with the Ways of God
 3. Flexibility to the Word of God
 4. Gentleness with others

By the conclusion of the first day, it was quite obvious that the Holy Spirit was working powerfully in many lives in the room! It is absolutely amazing how the Lord graces Bro. Garry with the ability to translate, with such a wonderful combination of accuracy and passion. Once again, the Lord melted us together with a ‘oneness’ of mind and heart, which made the translation of God’s Word, flow forth like a mighty river of truth.

By the 2nd day, it was undeniable that God was laying 'life-long' foundations in the hearts and lives of these church planters. Many were passionately crying out to the Lord in prayer, at the conclusion of each and every session. The manifest presence of God was apparent throughout the remainder of the conference. There was such a sense of awe and reverence; combined with an attitude of receptivity, repentance and renewal among many of these leaders. Oh friends, the ministry of teaching the Word of God is such a sweet delight, when the Holy Spirit is obviously present in His illuminating and igniting power.

A FEW PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Obviously, we do not have the space in this newsletter to share every testimony from the Cuban conference. So Bro. Garry has selected portions from just a few letters. By sharing these testimonies, we hope to give you a picture of how the Lord is answering prayers and utilizing your financial gifts toward missions. One of the church planters shared this testimony. "I have never been exposed to the extensive teachings on the Beatitudes. It has totally changed my life. Bro. Ed and Garry, you are personally responsible before God for bringing us these jewels of teachings. The Cuban Christians need it. I pray that you will remember us and continue coming to our country."

A pastor's wife from Lacaoba Baptist Mission says, "In the last month my husband, (who is a pastor), and I have been through many difficulties in our church. These various situations have led me to question God's will in our lives and in the ministry. However, as you were teaching 'The Beatitudes', the Holy Spirit began to do a healing ministry in my heart and life. Today, I can honestly say that I accept God's sovereign will as unique to my life, no matter the cost. I have a new passion to submit to God's Word; and I have recognized that without God, I can do nothing."

Domingo, another missionary testified, "I have read the Beatitudes many times, but as you taught them, each one of them came alive to me; especially when you taught on 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they {and they alone} shall be called sons of God'. One of the many things that I have asked the Lord, is to enable me to live my life as a peacemaker; and not to be controlled by my emotions."

Loida, a missionary and also an educator said these words, "Through this conference, the Holy Spirit has made me understand so many truths in a new and deeper way. One is that I need to have 'compassion that leads me to action' towards others. Because Jesus Christ has been merciful to me, I must be a channel of His mercy to others. So, just as you taught, I asked God to give me a more compassionate and merciful heart toward others."

Next, a church planter from 2nd Baptist— "After participating in this study, I have been convicted to respond to others in love when they despise me and willfully persecute me. I have always been on the defensive when dealing with difficult people. That is why I have asked the Lord to help me to have a humble spirit, when I am reviled and persecuted for Jesus' name. I have asked Him to give me the grace to rejoice and be exceedingly glad."

One of the lay leaders writes, "How wonderful it has been to have participated in this study. God showed me that I need to walk in meekness and humility. I just want to thank God for men like you, who take the time away from your families to share God's truths with us, as Cuban Christians. It is truly God's favor upon us, that you have come and shared so much, in such a short time."

A missionary from Baracoa expressed, "These Beatitudes have been great and powerful teachings. One of the ways in which God clearly spoke to me was regarding being sensitive to sin in my life and being quick to repent of that sin. Also, God powerfully spoke to me on the issue of being 'pure in heart'; specifically in your call to us to live a life that is 'set apart unto God and His purposes' and a life that is 'set apart from sin and it's purposes,' so that I may see God in this life and in the life to come."

Just by reading these few testimonies, I hope you are encouraged. You see how intently they listened to every message and also their eagerness to obey. It is always an encouragement to know that they are committed to receiving and applying these truths personally. They have been faithful to go back and reproduce these truths in their respective areas of ministry all over the Eastern half of Cuba.

Oh, may we be earnestly seeking the face of God, asking Him to do a similar work in America! May we listen intently to His Word and be eager to obey!



EBENEZER'S HOUSE

FRUIT THAT REMAINS

One evening, after the conference, Garry and I had the wonderful blessing of having dinner in the home of a dear brother in Christ named Ebenezer. Years ago, Ebenezer was the driver for the Eastern Baptist Convention. He was my means of transportation, not only to the seminary, but to many crusades in various locations. But Ebenezer's home was also one of the many house churches, under their mother church, 2nd Baptist of Santiago. As we had our meal, Ebenezer began to remind me of a particular evening that I preached at his house church.

The night Ebenezer was referring to, the entire home was overflowing with people. There was even people standing out in the streets, listening to the Gospel message. He continued to tell us, that these many years later, there are a number of adults that are giving ongoing evidence of conversion, from the message that night. One of the ladies that was converted was heavily involved in Santa Ria, a religion of witchcraft and demonism. That night she was gloriously converted and emancipated by the power of the gospel. She is still a faithful and active member of 2nd Baptist. Oh friends, what a wonderful reminder that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to anyone and everyone who savingly believes on the Lord Jesus Christ!

A CHANNEL OF MATERIAL AND FINACIAL BLESSINGS!

Recently the Cubans received a pay raise. They now live on \$15 a month. It is impossible for us in the U.S. to imagine that anyone could live, raise their families, and conduct a ministry in the midst of such poverty! But that is exactly what they do. Every time I have travelled to Cuba, it has not only been my desire to be a 'channel of spiritual blessing', but also, to be a 'channel of material and financial blessing' as much as we possibly can, because their need is so great. Once again, the Lord provided a number of ways to do that on this trip. I was able to give a gift of \$15 to each family that was represented at the conference. That seems like so little to us; but that is equal to a month's salary to these precious brothers and sisters. Also, the Eastern Baptist Seminary was in great need of fans for the dormitory rooms; 32 fans to be exact! I conducted a little interrogation of the seminary president to discover the exact extent of that need. When Pastor Freddie, the seminary president and the maintenance director of the seminary informed me of that need, I'm certain that they were not thinking that at that moment the need would be met. What Bro. Freddie was not aware of is that some of our dear brothers and sisters in the U.S. had already given the funds to purchase fans. When I shared with these men that I had the provision in my briefcase, their mouths dropped opened, in amazement. That very day, we were able to purchase the 32 fans. This means that for the coming year of studies, every one of the 81 seminary students will have a fan in their room. They will be able to study and live, with at least a 'little relief' from the oppressive heat and humidity. Bro. Freddie had also shared that the convention came extremely close to 'shutting down' the seminary last year, due to lack of funds. Unknowingly to him, I also had a gift, which God had provided, to meet the operation budget of the seminary for the upcoming year. The Lord had provided a gift of \$1,570 for the purpose of training these young men for the pastoral ministry. Oh, dear co-laborers in Christ, it is a tremendous joy to know that through your faithful gifts to this ministry, we can be such a channel of blessing. Truly 2 Corinthians 9:9 has been realized in your gifts, "For you have dispersed abroad", for you have given to those who are truly materially impoverished. The seminary leaders were absolutely overwhelmed with gratitude, because of the 'grace-giving' of the people of God that are connected with this ministry! In addition, there were several other personal opportunities availed to us, enabling us to give to individuals who are in great need. I don't have enough space to share them in this newsletter, but you can see how your prayers and financial gifts are being invested into the Kingdom of God.

On our final evening in Santiago de Cuba, I asked Bro. Garry if he would preach to the body of Christ at Ducureaux Baptist, which is located in a nearby city. A number of years ago we were able to provide the funds which enabled this church to double the size of their facility. The pastor's wife told us, "On the Lord's day, we must have 3 services in this enlarged building to accommodate everyone!" Just think of it, every time another soul is saved or a Christian is edified in that place, you have a part in that spiritual blessing! As our Lord and Savior has said, "It is truly more blessed to give than to receive". Oh, the greatness of God's economy. His ways are too marvelous for us to understand. He is truly INDESCRIBABLE!

Words cannot convey properly of our love and thankfulness for you. How grateful we are for your desire to partner with us, as God continues to open doors of ministry. Thank you for allowing us to be your servants that go and teach His glorious truths. Thank you for your desire to share the life-saving, soul-changing, God-honoring Word of God with others. **WE LOVE YOU!**

Your Servants for Jesus Sake,

Ed and Dianne Lacy