



## ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.

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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have recently concluded two weeks of evangelistic outreach meetings, in which the Lord gave me precious opportunities to plant the seed of the Gospel into the lives of men and women. Some of these men and women might be described, by the world, as 'moral outcasts' of society. But as I was praying a couple of days ago, for those many souls which sat under God's Word of Truth, I was reminded of Luke 15:1-2.

Then all the tax collectors and sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

This 15th chapter of Luke, is one of the most precious chapters in all of the scriptures. It has been used by the Lord on countless occasions; both in the conversion of sinners and to comfort the saints! When we understand the context of these 3 parables found in Luke 15, we are reminded that these liberal scribes, along with the conservative Pharisees, were continually murmuring against the Lord, because "the so-called low-life" of society drew near to Jesus; and Jesus was drawing near to them! Friends, to the religious crowd, it was not a source of delight that this was taking place; on the contrary, these events were disgusting to them. They could not understand why the Lord Jesus would have anything to do with these wicked "sinners". Like many today, they were happy to receive people, whom they considered to be of their own "social status", into their external fellowship. However, they utterly refused to receive these so-called "low-class" people. They were focused on their "targeted audience"; but they demonstrated no compassion for those who might be outside of their pre-conceived ideas of acceptability! The religious leaders of Jesus' day were so enslaved in their own self-righteousness, that they refused to have anything to do with those, who they saw as living immoral lives. These religious traditionalists exhibited no desire to approach these "sinners". Just like the elder brother found at the end of this chapter, they would have no joy in the return of a prodigal sinner; and yet, the salvation of a prodigal sinner is "God's desire and delight"! They were utterly shocked that this Man, who claimed to be the "Messiah", would receive those whom they had excluded from their company! They had completely missed the purpose of the dispensation of the nearness of God the Son; that He had come to seek and to save that which was lost.

The Great Physician had entered into this wicked world to heal morally "sin-sick" souls. The King of glory had left the worship of the angels to purchase the 'love-gift' that the Father had given to Him. This bride would be comprised of the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, the tax-gatherers, the harlots, and all other manner of prodigal sinners! He came into the world to save sinners! The Good Shepherd testifies that there is more joy in Heaven over one sinner that comes to repentance, than over ninety-nine "so-called righteous persons", who falsely imagine that they need no repentance!

**JESUS IS STILL RECEIVING SINNERS!**

Friends, aren't you thankful that Jesus still receives sinners and fellowships with them? I am so grateful that "this Man receives sinners"; because I was the chief of sinners! It still amazes me, that Jesus would receive a polluted and profane agnostic musician, as I once was; and then transform this wretch into a trophy of His grace! It astounds me that He would then give me the privilege to "go into the highways and hedges" and compel other sinners to come to the banquet feast of God's saving grace! "

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Now I can go to any sinner, no matter how contaminated and corrupt they may be, and proclaim to them with personal confidence, that Jesus is still receiving destitute and desperate rebels. I can promise, even to the lowest of the low, that those who come to Him, "He will in no way cast them out." Brothers and sisters, may we proclaim the message far and wide that "This Man receives sinners and eats with them". Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. The Lord Jesus still receives drunkards, drug addicts, prostitutes, adulterers, and all manner of sinners, if they will come to Him on His conditions of repentance and faith!

### MAY WE BE ACCESSIBLE TO SINNERS!

If the Lord Jesus is always accessible, even to terrible transgressors; may we, as His followers, manifest that same accessibility, even to the worst of the worst. I never feel more alive, unto the Lord and His purposes, than when I am planting His glorious Gospel seed into the lives of prodigal sinners. There is no greater joy in my life, than to stand before a room full of sinners, or to sit with one lost sinner and proclaim that "The Holy Lord of Heaven still receives sinners and eats with them". Once again, I have been powerfully reminded that the only difference between the best of believers and the worst of sinners, is the "AMAZING GRACE OF GOD"! I will forever be thankful that "This Man receives sinners and eats with them"!

### EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH CRUSADE AT AN INDUSTRIAL PLANT!

Industrial Electroplating Company encompasses almost an entire city block in Gastonia, North Carolina. The company employs about 70 people, including office personal, truckers, painters, and a number of men doing some pretty hard work in the sweltering heat of the summer! It has been my tremendous privilege, on a number of occasions, to preach evangelistic crusades at the PLANT, during working hours! That's right friends! This plant is owned and operated by one of the godliest families that I have met in my life. Walter Prescott, the CEO of this company, is a man of God that is absolutely "in tune" with the compassion of Jesus for sinners and the call of Jesus to be "on mission with Him", in reaching this lost and dying world with the Gospel. Bro. Walter, along with his precious wife, Amelia, like their Lord and Savior, "receives sinners and eats with them"!

Every afternoon at the close of the first shift and the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, an announcement was made over the p.a. system, inviting all of the employees into the 'break room', for an hour of "gospel preaching and singing". They are told that attendance is voluntary. The company even keeps them on the clock, during the time of the service.

Friends, it is an absolute joy to stand before this packed room of needy souls and proclaim the "bad news of our terrible problem" before a Holy God; and the "good news of God's tremendous provision" in the Person and Work of His Son! After three days of evangelistic preaching and witnessing on the grounds of the plant, Walter and his family had a "cook out" for all of the employees and their families. The conference room was filled with eternal souls that heard the gospel message. Walter shares about this precious opportunity:

I wanted to follow up on your recent visit to our industrial plant. Ed, thank you for coming to our business to preach the gospel and to witness to our employees, God has blessed that visit in a wonderful way. We felt the HOLY SPIRIT going out, as you preached your heart out, through God's Word. Ed, you know that we totally depend on God, for all of the work that He supplies for us at our plant. Our work comes in daily with no salesman, except God. We employ about 70 people at Industrial Electroplating; and our God continually furnishes everything that we need to meet our employee's payroll, each week! You also know that our Father has supplied the funds for us to be able to build or repair 13 churches around the world, in a number of different countries. My wife Amelia and I, some of our daughter-in-laws, along with some of grandchildren are about to leave for Romania. We will have the privilege of ministering the gospel to about 1,400 children and youth, during the week of July 22nd. This will be our 41st trip outside of our nation. I tell you all of that, to simply say that, 'If we go around the world to witness; what about the precious souls who work at our plant'? Their labor has helped to provide for these foreign outreach ministries. And yet, my heart cries out for the salvation of the vast majority of their souls, who are without a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. If we did not call "time out" during working hours and witness to them, I could not live with myself and stand before our Lord one day! Brother Ed, God did a mighty work in their hearts while you were here. We have given out three study bibles and talked with many who are thinking about their souls, We have answered many questions from them, as many are under conviction. You planted the seeds deep; and now the seed needs to be watered. The family night cookout turned out very good. Many are begging for us to do that again next year, so that they can invite more friends to come. We must remember that many of these people do not go to any church; so this was all new to them. Ed, we must put this on your calendar next year for you to come back. Our prayers for our employees are being answered, by the only One who can grant Salvation- the LORD JESUS CHRIST. We praise Him and give Him all of the Glory. I will keep you updated on our employee's progress."

## MISSION OF HOPE

The youth camp in Louisiana, in which I was scheduled to preach, had to be cancelled. But God opened another glorious door to preach and witness for 4 consecutive days at Mission of Hope Ministries, here in our home city of Mobile. Mission of Hope Ministries is a three month program designed to minister to men and women who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. The program for men is called "Mission of Hope"; and the "Haven of Hope" for women. This Ministry does not charge for their ministry and services. It is totally funded by churches, individuals and businesses, who have a passion to help those who are suffering from addictions. The sanctuary was packed with the over 50 men and 15 ladies in the program and their counselors. God granted tremendous liberty and power, as I preached about the glorious Gospel; the reality of conversion; the evidences of true conversion; and consequences of refusing to be converted! The Living Word, the Lord Jesus, was mightily present among us, applying the written word to many hearts and lives in the room. There was not one single moment of distraction in any of the services! God was obviously doing eternal work in the lives of many of the men and women. Jim Jordan, the Director of the Mission said, "God did a good work in the lives of our men and women; as well as in the staff. Ms. Jeanne, the director of the Haven of Hope, said 'Her girls told her they were glad to finally hear a preacher they could understand'! We know that this testimony is a reality because of the power and illumination of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for these men and women, that they would all come to savingly know the life-changing power of the truth of the Gospel; and that the truth would set them free!

## LOCAL CHURCH MEETINGS IN FLORIDA AND ARKANSAS

It was a precious privilege to preach at the First Baptist Church of Bull Shoals, Arkansas, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. God is doing a good work among that local body of believers. The altars and front section of the church was filled with believers on their knees, on the concluding evening. All were seeking the Lord, asking Him to baptize them with a deeper burden and compassion for lost sinners. I can still hear in my heart, the precious brother that was kneeling next to me, as he wailed out for lost souls; as the Lord was answering this prayer for a renewed burden in his own life. I also had the blessing of preaching at First Baptist Cross City, Florida. One of the members of that church is Joe Anderson, the CEO for Anderson Columbia, which is one of the largest construction firms in the southeast. Joe is a man with a tremendous passion to see sinners come to the Lord Jesus Christ! During that week of ministry at First Baptist, I passed by a billboard on the highway, that urged people to "strive to enter the narrow gate". One of his employees later shared with me, that Mr. Joe Anderson was the man who was responsible for putting up that billboard on the highway. But, he also reminded me that over 15 years ago, I had preached from the "narrow gate" passage at First Baptist Cross City. The Holy Spirit used that message to mightily impact Mr. Anderson's life. He has a "life burden" to see many souls enter through the narrow gate, for the glory of God! I praise the Lord for these godly laymen that are "sold out" to King Jesus; and that have hearts that are immersed with the truth that "Jesus still receive sinners and

## CUBA REPORT

I have just received some wonderful news from Holguin, Cuba from one of the church planters, Rafiel Arcadis. He says, "Our pastor of evangelism for all of the 18 missions, (Miguel- who is also the pastor of upper room Baptist Mission) has just trained 150 of our young adults in the "Christ-centered Evangelism" study that you taught us. Over 100 of them went 'door-to-door' throughout the community, sharing the good news! We followed that outreach with an evangelistic service. We are now teaching the fundamentals of the faith to 46 adults, who were the fruit of those efforts. We are so very happy to have this work of teaching them and looking for 'fruit that remains' in their lives! We are going to hold an evangelistic summer camp for young adults, which begins on July 10. We are excited that 250 non-believers have committed to attend. Please pray for many true conversions for the glory of God!"

Also, I have just completed a new study entitled, 'Walking In Victory In The Reign Of Grace'. This study will be the focus for the Cuba 'church-planters' conference in November. Bro. Garry Morrison will now begin to translate it into Spanish.

## NICARAGUA

The following is a recent letter from a pastor in Nicaragua. "Bro. Ed, my name is Jose Salgado. I am a Mennonite pastor. I want to thank God, first of all, for bringing your teachings to us in January. I have been a pastor for 31 years. But for the first time, I truly understood 'Christ-centered Evangelism'. I was attempting to do God's work, by using the methods and techniques of men. I was a good man, who was attempting to use human tactics to try to help the Lord to do His mission. But I want to say something very important to you. Since you came to Nicaragua, we have begun teaching your lessons to many believers. I am training 4 different groups of believers, 4 days a week! We have to walk three hours to get to where one of the groups live; two hours to reach another group; and 3 hours to reach the other two groups. Continued on next page

I also want to remind you that our Lord Jesus told us that when the work of the disciple was completed, that disciple will be like his teacher; and believe me, that is the truth. The person who helps me every week is Brother Maynor, who was your interpreter. He reminds me of you, each time he teaches one of the classes. He teaches as you teach. He teaches with that same love and authority, as you teach. You know Brother Lacy, I am very grateful to you and to our Lord. And I would like, if you possibly can, to teach us some other subjects. Bro. Maynor told me that you have other workbooks in Spanish. I hope and pray that the will of God will bring you back to us, the Mennonite pastors, as soon as possible. We need you to teach us the truth of the scriptures. Brother Maynor spends 5 days a week in rural parts of Nicaragua, using your 'Christ-centered Evangelism' workbook. I think that he has taught it 23 different times, since January. We have taught it together, on 9 different occasions. I think that I have almost learned the complete workbook by heart! You have given us the true food for the sheep of the Lord Jesus." Friends, all we can say to these things is "Glory to our God".

## PRAISE –PRAYER-THANKSGIVING

As I consider how the Lord has graciously placed you in our lives and ministries, the Holy Spirit gives me an attitude of praise, prayer and thanksgiving. **Praise** to our Lord and Savior, that He would receive such a outcast wretch as I; and then call me to be a herald of His glorious gospel! **Prayer** for all of you, who have so lovingly and faithfully prayed for us and stood with us, through both the "mountain tops of spiritual prosperity and the valleys of adversity". Even now, you continue to intercede for us and give joyfully for the extension of the Kingdom of God, through this ministry! **Thanksgiving** for all of the mercies that we have received from our Father; and from you, who have been the instruments that God has used, to supply every need for this life and ministry of faith! It has now been 27 years, that this preacher has been going from church to church; from prison to prison; from nation to nation; from soul to soul, with the glorious message that "God the Son receives sinners; and eats with them". There have been many times of physical weakness and pain; many emotional "highs and lows"; and many mental battles to persevere through the pain. I have pleaded with the Lord, far more than three times, that these physical issues might depart from me. And yet, the Lord continues to say, "My grace is sufficient for you. For My strength is made perfect in weakness". Friends, I have come to know that this promise is true. Please continue to pray for me that I will follow Jude's admonition to, "Keep myself in the love of God, by building myself up in my most holy faith; by praying in the Holy Spirit; by waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life". May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Thank you dear friends and co-laborers in Christ.

Numbers 6:24-26

Ed Lacy

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

July 25-31.....Nicaragua Outreach  
August 9-12.....Waterfront Rescue Mission Outreach, Mobile, AL  
August 29– Sept. 1.....Grace Church of the Shoals, Muscle Shoals, AL  
September 12-15.....Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lincolnton, NC  
September 23-26.....Soundview Christian Baptist Church, Bronx, NY  
Hispanic Outreach