



ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.

P.O. BOX 9062
MOBILE, AL 36691
(251) 660-8942



STRIVING TO DO GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

EDLACYMINISTRIES@CS.COM

(251) 660-8942

WWW.EDLACYMINISTRIES.ORG

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, as I was sitting in the airport, awaiting my flight from Michigan to Mobile; I begin to reflect upon the tremendous opportunities that God has given me in these past 2 months. Our Lord has opened doors for me to preach His glorious gospel to hundreds of lost souls in crusades in Alabama, North Carolina, the Bronx of New York, as well as this latest opportunity in Michigan! Throughout these times, the Lord has allowed me to see many men, women and youth testify that they have come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ in their lives. As I thought about these wonderful opportunities, I was reminded of what our Lord said to Peter in Luke 5. In verses 4-6, our Lord told Peter, "[Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.](#)" But Simon answered and said to Him, "[Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless AT YOUR WORD I will let down the net.](#)" And when they had done this, they caught a [great number of fish, and their net was breaking.](#)

We know that the Lord Jesus performed miracles for a far greater purpose than only to meet an immediate physical need. This miracle is no exception. Just as Peter was summoned to let down this physical net, our King has called us to a holy vocation of letting down the net of the Gospel into the seas of the never-dying souls all around us! The primary focus of our life's pursuit is to glorify God, by purposing to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission. We are redeemed to be worshipers of our God and witnesses unto our King and Savior, in this tremendous fishing expedition for the eternal souls of sinners. This is our chief reason for remaining here in the vast ocean of this fallen world. If it were not for this 'Evangelistic Expedition', we would graduate into glory and join the millions of worshipers who have gone on before us. But dear friends, it is necessary for us to remain below for a while, so that we might fulfill this noble labor of 'men-fishing'.



Every child of God has been commissioned to be intimately involved in this awesome rescue mission. Notice that the Lord said, "[Let down your nets for a catch.](#)" The Lord has promised to give us His supernatural grace that will enable us to be faithful and fervent fishers of men! He has already given us His [\[ordained fishing equipment\]](#) to carry out this expedition. We have been commanded to be constantly taking opportunities and making opportunities in 'letting down the net of the gospel', so that souls might be brought out of the kingdom of sin and into the kingdom of grace. We have been given the privilege of being involved in passionate and persistent intercession for the success of this great campaign; and He has called us to be involved in personal sacrifice for the extension of His Kingdom into the

hearts of sinners. For indeed, dear friends, the life of a fisherman is a rough and laborious occupation. The Lord has commanded us to live our lives in a manner which magnifies the Master of the Sea!

We understand that the reality of 'catching the souls of men' is a supernatural and miraculous work of God. Only the Holy Spirit is able to draw in this catch. However, at the same time, there are specific means that must be used in this miracle of 'fishing for men'! If we would be mindful to use the methods that the Master has ordained, then we could trust our Lord to make the catch, in HIS TIMING!

The great tragedy is that there are many "fishers of men" who have decided to invent their own methods for fishing. They imagine that they KNOW MORE about this expedition than the One who created the fish! Many neglect the Master's methods and invent their own methods. But friends, NO NEW METHODS have been authorized by the Master Fisherman! I submit to you that it is an act of mutiny against the Captain of this Gospel ship, for the crew to be negligent and apathetic about the expedition; or to invent their own techniques and tactics for the carrying out of the expedition. The One who is the only Savior of sinners, and the Final Judge of the oceans of humanity, has given us the fishing equipment for carrying out His Great Mission. He is simply calling us to DO what He has commanded us. If we obey His directions and apply His message and methods, then the responsibility for the quantity of the catch is in the Hands of the Master. I remind you of Peter's response to the Lord, "[We have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at your word I will let down the net.](#)" Continued on p.2

Can you imagine how arrogant it would have been if Peter had said, "I know more about fishing than you do"; or if he would have said, "I think we need some new methods of fishing". This kind of response would have revealed the poison of pride in the rugged fisherman. Peter might have been tempted to give in and surrender to a rebellious resignation and said, "There has been nothing to show for all of this work, so I am quitting." But notice the disciple's response to his Master; "[Nevertheless, at Your Word I will let down the net](#)".

What about you brothers and sisters?

Have you been toiling for a long time; but you have yet to see a catch? Have you become discouraged? Have you been tempted to give in to a sinful resignation? How long has it been since you let down the net of the gospel? Are you proclaiming the gospel within your sphere of influence? Are you sowing the seed? Are you living a life that is centered on the Lord; or have you become distracted by lesser things? Are you involved in compassionate and continual evangelistic intercession for the salvation of souls; or have you been guilty of apathetic negligence? Are you willing to toil even unto personal sacrifice; or have you given in to a life of spiritual lethargy?

We must remember the great conclusion of this story: "[And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.](#)" Suddenly, a supernatural miracle took place. There was a "CATCH" that could only be explained by the presence of God. Brothers and sisters, our King is reminding us that "man-catching" is a miracle of God. Salvation becomes a reality only through a supernatural and miraculous work of the Master fisherman. He simply wants us to be faithfully and fervently using the "fishing equipment" which He has ordained. There is no human explanation for the tremendous catch that Peter and the other fishermen experienced that evening. The only explanation is the awesome presence of the power of the Son of God. Oh brothers and sisters, may we make a new commitment in these dark and difficult days, to be faithful to the only One who can draw the net. May we be personally committed to use "His methods" to carry out His expedition! God is not looking for fishermen who can concoct new gimmicks. God is looking for fishermen who will lovingly, passionately and persistently use His means; and then trust Him to bring in His catch, in His timing, for His glory!

EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH AT GRACE LIFE CHURCH OF THE SHOALS

It was a tremendous blessing to be the "Gospel preacher" at the Fall evangelistic outreach for Grace Life Church of the Shoals. Pastor Jeff Noblit has been the senior pastor-teacher for many years. I have observed, from a distance, how the Lord Jesus has been using this precious brother and his staff, to build a 'true New Testament church' which seeks to line up with the Word of God in every way. It was an awesome privilege to be a small part of their on-going "fishing expedition". They entitled this fall outreach, "From Darkness to Light"! In my 27 years of preaching, I have rarely seen a local church that was more faithful in intense preparation; passionate intercession; and in personally inviting and then bringing hundreds of people to the outreach crusade! It was an overwhelming joy and also an awesome encouragement to serve among a local church that takes this "great mission" seriously. I asked Bro. Matt Fowler, who is one of the associate pastors at Grace Life Church, to share a testimony concerning the many areas in which the church prepared for this tremendous evangelistic outreach to the Community.

Bro. Matt Fowler writes:

While we fully understand that only the Holy Spirit can bring a lost sinner to conversion, we also understand that we are to use God's ordained means to compel men and urge sinners to come to Christ. The doctrines concerning the glorious grace of God should never lead a church to an attitude of lethargy or lack of zeal for evangelism. But they should inspire us to reach out to the lost and to purposefully use 'God-glorifying' ways of bringing men to hear the glorious preaching of the Gospel. Thus, while relying fully on God (and not gimmicks) to bring the Gospel to bear on lost sinners' souls, we began preparing for our Fall Outreach with Bro. Ed in July. Below is a sampling of some of our preparations at Grace Life for the week of Fall Outreach: Beginning in July, we asked each of our Small Group leaders to visit those individuals in their classes with a couple of goals in mind. First, we wanted them to give out informational fliers concerning our Fall Outreach schedule. Secondly, we wanted them to encourage the class members to begin to pray that God would save the lost and edify His people. The months of July and August also gave us time to challenge our people to look specifically for friends, neighbors, and associates that they could invite to our Adult Friend Night during Fall Outreach. There were hundreds of adults who came under the sound teaching of the Gospel. Our students also had a night where they invited many of their friends and classmates to enjoy a free meal, followed by the preaching of the Gospel. Continued on next page.....



There were a few hundred unconverted students who were in attendance. God also opened a door for ED to preach the Gospel with more than 300 area student athletes during the week. In preparation for the fall outreach, we had a couple of outreach visitations on Wednesday nights, that we used to canvas our community with both fliers that contained information about the Fall Outreach; and also a audio "cd" that contained a message that had been preached by Bro. Ed. We asked our people to spend some time the week before Fall Outreach engaging in a couple of different activities: First, we asked them to consider cutting off their televisions for the week. Secondly, we asked them to prayerfully lead their families through a study entitled 'The God Who Saves', which is published by Matthias Media. Our regular Wednesday night service the week prior to our Fall Outreach was used simply to pray and plead with God to do what only He could do; which is to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh! God used Bro. Ed to preach the truth to us all week long. Ed's messages were full of both light and heat! We are still following up with many of those who came forward, expressing a need for prayer or a desire to speak with someone concerning the state of their soul. We have learned over the years not to deal too hastily with those we call "seekers". Our staff of pastors has a list of men and women that we are constantly praying for, who have expressed a desire to receive further counseling about the Gospel and their need for Christ. We meet with them and diligently discuss what the Scriptures have to say concerning sin, repentance, faith, conversion, and baptism. As pastors, we know that the work of counseling seekers is surely one of the greatest responsibilities that is entrusted to us by the Chief Shepherd! Many times, we have found that the work of evangelism begins after the evangelist has already left and returned to his home. He plants the wonderful seed of the Gospel, and then we are allowed the many opportunities, to water the Seed and see Gospel growth occur, through our follow up with those who were affected by the preaching of the Gospel."

Oh dear friends, this is exactly what the Lord requires of us. Only He can perform that miracle of 'catching a soul'; but this church was faithful to employ the tools for fishing! Personally, I am so very grateful that Pastor Noblit and his staff allowed me to come alongside this precious local body of Christ, to let down the Gospel net, during this powerful week of outreach!

EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH CRUSADE IN THE BRONX, NEW YORK!

During the last days of September, the Lord gave me the wonderful opportunity to be the gospel preacher at an evangelistic outreach crusade in the Bronx. Pastor Cesar Perez is the dear brother in Christ who was my first interpreter in Santiago de Cuba, over 14 years ago. Since those days, Cesar has received his master's degree from the Argentina Baptist Seminary. Three years ago, God opened a door for him to be the pastor at Soundview Baptist Church in the heart of the Bronx in New York. Our Lord and Savior did a mighty work of grace, in the lives of many adults and youth, during these 4 days of evangelistic outreach! Each evening, there were scores of unconverted adults and youth filling the church and sitting under the preaching of the Gospel. Many adults and youth testified that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ had transformed their lives! Pastor Cesar reports, "Bro. Ed, it was such a blessing to have you minister God's Word in our midst. We saw a great number of unconverted spouses 'seeking the Lord for salvation'. We were also so thrilled that there were over double the number of university students and high school students in attendance, than we were expecting! But most of all, it was so powerful to see so many of them who are testifying of conversion and seeking more material about the Person and the Work of our Lord Jesus! Also, the evangelistic training on Saturday was a wonderful help to many of our Hispanic churches, who attended from different areas of New York City. That day of training opened many new doors to cooperate with other churches, who are willing to go forth and preach the Gospel. The Sunday morning Bible study hour and worship hour were amazing! Our entire congregation is being impacted by the Gospel teaching that they received. Many are seeking the Lord, concerning their spiritual condition. This week was a personal confirmation of God's promises to our hearts; and we are committed to reach souls in the Bronx, for our Lord Jesus. We are already praying and preparing for next fall's outreach crusade, when you will return to preach the glorious gospel. This week has reinforced our commitment to evangelism and has encouraged us to pray unceasingly for souls. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

I was also blessed to preach two other outreach crusades in North Carolina and North Alabama, in which they were wonderful opportunities to 'let down the gospel net' and watch the Lord catch eternal souls! I have just returned from a opportunity to teach "Christ-centered Evangelism" in a Church of God in Decatur, Michigan. I saw God do some mighty works in the lives of individuals, energizing His people unto His instruments to use His means; and seek the Lord for His Presence upon our evangelism.

Oh friends, I think of the words of Charles Spurgeon, when he said, "May we work, as if it all depended on us; but let us pray, as if it all depends upon God"!

NEXT YEAR MISSIONS TO CUBA, NICARAGUA, AND AFRICA

Our annual December trip to Cuba has been postponed until May 2011, because of a problem with the required religious visas from the Cuban government. The U. S. Treasury department had already given us the clearance for the conference. The problem came with the communist government and their delay in granting the religious visas. So we must trust the sovereignty of God in this delay for the annual 'church planters' conference. I had completed a new workbook for this conference which is entitled, "Walking In Victory In The Reign Of Grace". But, I will have to wait a little longer to teach it to these precious church planters. However, we were able to get the entire gift of the 'yearly support' to the 18 church planters in Holguin, Cuba. Pastor Ernesto, (the senior pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church) was invited to the Bronx, New York for an opportunity to speak to Hispanic Baptist pastors. I was able to get the total support for the 18 church planters to him, during his ministry in the Bronx. One of those Cuban-church planters, Pastor Manuel of the Upper Room Baptist Church, recently went home to glory. I know many of you had been praying for him and his family. He had battled cancer for about 4 years; but now He has graduated into glory! We have committed to continue to support his wife for the next year. I believe that our Lord will honor that commitment. AMEN? Please pray for Bro. Garry Morrison, my brother in Christ, who is my interpreter on every trip to Cuba. He is also the Pastor of Iglesia Bautista la Roca in Easley, SC. Garry will be having surgery on his shoulder in a few weeks. Please remember him, as he will have ongoing rehab, after this surgery.

In 2011, I am already scheduled to teach hundreds of pastors and church planters in 2 conferences in Nicaragua, 2 conferences in Cuba and one in Kenya. God has blessed this ministry with the tremendous opportunities to be a channel of support, not only for the 18 church planters in Cuba; but also to ministers in Russia, Kenya, Uganda and Nicaragua; as well as helping 2 Spanish Mission churches in the U.S. Precious friends, the Lord has used your love, prayers and financial support, to be greatly multiplied in the lives and ministries of so many pastors, church planters and churches in a number of different countries! Only the Bema seat of Jesus Christ will finally reveal all of the countless ways that the Lord has used you mightily, as a channel of blessing, in both the salvation of souls and the sanctification of leaders and other believers! Dianne and I lift up praise to the Lord our God for all that He is doing. But we also wish to thank you personally for 'co-laboring' with us in this great fishing expedition. Friends, it won't be long; soon we'll be leaving here. Our desire is to stand before Him, with gold, silver and precious stone, to lay at the feet of our Savior and King! We love you. We give glory to God, that He has brought us together to carry out His great mission!

Family News

These have been very busy days for the Lacy's. Our youngest son, Josh, was married to Virginia Dawson on October 2. Josh graduated from Auburn 2 years ago, and is working in the field of banking; and Virginia is presently working on her 'phd' from Auburn University. They are residing in Montgomery, Al. It was a wonderful time to gather with all of our family and celebrate this special event. Then, on October 28, our daughter and son-in-law, Gene and Benita, adopted 5 year-old twin boys, Evan and Neil. They have already been blessed with two beautiful children, Taylor, 17 and Madi, 13. They were absolutely delighted over their new siblings. What a blessing it was to see the hand of God at work in this adoption process. Our oldest son, Dwight and wife Wendy, live in Mobile. Dwight was recently promoted to a new position in his company. This is a great opportunity, but it will be very challenging. Both, Dwight and Wendy, stay extremely busy with their jobs and the raising of their precious sons, Tyler, 17 and Jonah 5. Needless to say, we rejoice over the abundant grace that has been shown on our families. We are so excited about the new additions and the multiplied blessings in our lives, in so many areas. The Lord is at work and we continue to ask the Lord to rule and reign in the hearts of all.

II Cor. 4:5

Ed & Dianne Lacy

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

November 7-10.....Quitman Baptist Church, Quitman, LA

November 14-17.....Fellowship Baptist Church, Steinhatchee, FL

Jesus said, "Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"!