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Newsletter for January 2005

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Praise's of the Month

Well I guess my first praise of the new year is that last November Mary and I were visiting my mother and even though she has a hard time remembering, our Lord and Savior opened her mind long enough for her to ask Jesus into her heart and ask for forgiveness. If the Lord takes us overseas preaching I now have the comfort of knowing that mom will be with Jesus when her time comes. Thank you Jesus for your love. Our second praise for the month is that we will be going on a station in the Congo of Africa in February. We have formed a partnership with one of our Radio Station groups and may be able to use their expertise on our first trip to Africa. This would help the ministry in both cost savings and being very efficient in our work for the Lord. This would also allow us to preach in the areas we are currently broadcasting. My final praise for the month and year ahead is that the Lord has been showing Mary and I the true meaning of Praising Him and Worshiping Him. I will be putting this together into a series of programs called "Back to the Basics". Our Lord and Savior is so good we do not even deserve to go into His presence yet He lets us.

A final note of praise. Roger and Terry one of the ministry's partners asked for our prayer warriors to pray that they could sell their house. They wanted to say praise the Lord and thanks to all the prayer warriors. The house has sold.

God Bless and praying for a blessed new year for you

Pastor Ariel

Mary's Thoughts for the Month

Do you ever wonder what God's purpose for you life is? It is clearly outlined here in the book of Ephesians.

¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

What are God's intentions for our lives? God intends to perfect and equip His saints. In the business world or any kind of secular occupation, it is imperative that one has the necessary education and practical training so as to equip him for his particular position in a firm. However, these educational training methods are not sufficient. All successful businessmen will admit that experience is what is ultimately needed to make a success of your vocation. In the spiritual realm this is of no less importance. If, what we learn through God's word is not translated into an experiential knowledge, then all the other educational training methods are null and void. This is what Paul had in mind when he said:

2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

God's word is always the first place we should go when we are searching for the purpose He has for us. It cannot be found in a forty-day plan that you study or a self-help book. God does have a purpose for your life. He will reveal that purpose to you as you seek Him and spend time in His word. Even tribulations are a part of God's purpose for your life, these teach us valuable lessons, and draw us nearer to Him. Jay and I know a little bit about going through trials and tribulations, and we have learned to submit ourselves to His hand of correction quickly, we have also learned to praise Him for all things that come our way. Praise Him for everything in your life, the good and the bad and His purpose will be revealed to you. You will also be glorifying Him by giving Him a sacrifice of praise.

Love in Christ Mary.

Pastor's Corner ***Just some interesting statistics***

I fully expect you to stomp away mad, but you might want to consider that my only effort here is to point out facts about how big the problems in the church have gotten.

Below you will find a compilation of some of the scariest, most embarrassing, most shocking statistics and information about the Church and it's affairs. Somebody is going to have to stand before Jesus one day and explain their role in this. We don't want it to be us - or you.

The FACTS:

"According to the World Evangelical Alliance, over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied fundamental human rights solely because of their faith. David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson in their 2004 Annual Statistical Table on Global Mission in the International Bulletin of Missionary Research (Vol. 28, No. 1 - estimate that approximately 167,000 Christians are presently being martyred every year. This compares to 160,000 martyrs in mid-2000 and 34,400 at the beginning of the 20th century. If current trends continue, Barrett and Johnson estimate that by 2025, an average of 210,000 Christians will be martyred annually." (The Martyrs Voice) Do you get this number friends? This means that an average of 475 Christians are martyred every day, 19 are killed every hour, or one Christian is martyred for Jesus every 3 minutes. Where are you in your comfort zone?

Over the last 20 centuries, and in all 238 countries, more than 70 million Christians have been martyred - killed, executed, murdered - for Christ. More Christians have been martyred in the last 100 years than all other years since AD 30 combined. Had Enough Yet? It gets worse. We're stuffing the Fattest and starving the Hungriest!

38 countries are primarily unevangelized. (i.e. 1.6 Billion souls)

Assets of the Church:

US Christians control TRILLIONS in assets while at any given moment 200,000,000 Brothers and Sisters starve. 78 countries each have Great Commission Christians whose personal incomes exceed US \$1 billion a year.

Wasteful Spending by the Church:

95% of all church budgets in the US are spent on our own comforts and programs. Less than 1% is spent on evangelism to the most un-reached. 40% of the church's entire global foreign mission resources are being deployed to just 10 over saturated countries already possessing strong citizen-run home ministries. More than 90% of all Christian materials are in English, but only 8% of the world speaks English.

All costs of ministry divided by number of baptisms per year. Cost per baptism in India - \$9803 per person. Cost per baptism in the United States - \$1,550,000 per person. It costs Christians 700 times more money to baptize converts in rich countries (eg. Switzerland) than in poor countries (eg. Nepal).

Each year, 180 million Bibles and New Testaments are wasted -lost, destroyed, or disintegrated - due to incompetence, hostility, bad planning, or inadequate manufacture.

Missions and the Church:

Some 250 of the 300 largest international Christian organizations regularly mislead the Christian public by publishing demonstrably incorrect or falsified progress statistics.

Percent of Christian resources in countries that are already more than 60% Christian - 99.9%. Percent spent in countries where less than half the people have EVER heard of Jesus - 0.01%.

It is estimated that Christians worldwide spend around \$8 BILLION dollars PER YEAR going to the more than 500 conferences to TALK about missions. That's more than TWICE the total spent DOING missions.

Denominations of the Church:

Currently there are over 33,000 Christian denominations in the United States.

Growth of the Church:

The country with the fastest Christian expansion ever is China, now at 10,000 new converts every day.

Persecution of the Church:

More than 70% of all Christians now live in countries where they are experiencing persecution. In some cases EXTREME persecution.

Global Population Issues:

124 million new souls begin life on Earth each year, but Christianity's 4,000 foreign mission agencies baptize only 4 million new persons a year.

Unreached Peoples:

Out of 648 million Great Commission Christians, 70% have never been told about world's 1.6 billion unevangelized individuals.

Despite Christ's command to evangelize the world, 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present have never even heard of his name.

This is meant to be just a plain, direct reporting of how miserably, horribly, devastatingly badly we - the Christians in the West - have mismanaged the massive gifts which God has entrusted to us.

God BLESS

Pastor Ariel

From the Directors Chair

Dead Men Aren't Grouchy

Just wanted to share some of what the Lord has been blessing me with. I hope you get at least half the blessing I have from this.

So much of the time we go around doing our duties, and someone just has to push our buttons to get us irritable, grouchy, complaining, worried or many things of this nature. But that is not the attitude that God wants us to have. We read an article recently of an astronaut that had gotten into space and looked back at the earth and it was just hanging in space. And the magnitude of the sight just drove home the point that God keeps the earth spinning in its place. He has everything the proper speed and distance. If you can believe this, it is even without help from me and you. He didn't even have to ask us how to do it the best way.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:" (Isaiah 26:3,4)

If being irritable and grouchy and so on is not in the fruit of the Spirit should that be coming out of us? Not only is it not supposed to come out, it says in 1Cor 13 that love is none of these. Hate the sin but love the sinner. Blessed are you when persecuted for my

name's sake. Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them, they know not", He reviled not with His mouth. Jesus... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, (Heb 12:2)

Are you in affliction? If not, you probably know someone who is, or it won't be long and you will be. What is going happen when we don't get our way, or things don't work out just like we think they should? The outcome wasn't what we wanted. Do we have some complaint or a curse? James says, "Let him pray" when we are afflicted. But continue to verse 15 and see that it is the prayer of faith. Faith, another fruit of the Spirit is at work here. Do you see the fruit of Spirit at work. This is what Christ's church has to look like. The fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22,23, "against such there is no law". We are not backbiters, remember? In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1Thes 5:18) Do you, as it says in Psalm 100:4, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name"? Even Paul in Phil 4:8 said, "If there be any praise, think on these things". You will be surprised at the love, joy, peace, patience, you will be able to have when you thank God for your problems, yes for all things just exactly the way they are. Give thanks and rejoice! "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Heb 13:15). When you read your bible watch for these things,(praise, thanksgiving, joy, and peace) this month, and try to be thankful for everything just as it is, good or bad. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose (Roman 8:28) Paul boasted in his infirmities, and the apostles are beaten and rejoice because they are worthy to suffer shame for His name. You have to die to your own plan, your own way, your own understanding. "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col 3:2,3) Dead men aren't grouchy.

God Bless, Bro Scott

This Months Bible Moment



With Pastor Jay

Help Please!!

"BEIJING (Reuters) - Nine out of 10 Chinese calling into a suicide-prevention hotline in the capital Beijing are getting the busy tone, a newspaper said on Monday, adding that nationwide four people were killing themselves every minute.

So far, more than 110,000 people had dialed in to the Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center hotline since it was set up in Beijing last year, the China Daily said.

It quoted an expert as saying poverty, unemployment, bereavement, breakdowns in relationships or legal and work-related problems were all causes.

But a lack of funds meant that not everyone who needed the hotline was getting through, said Michael Phillips, executive director of the suicide prevention center.

"Nine of every 10 persons only hear a busy tone," he told the newspaper. "It's very dangerous because they may be at high risk of committing suicide."

Stress in urban China has increased with 20 years of economic reforms, increased competition, job losses, breakup of the traditional family unit in the cities and the dismantlement of cradle-to-grave welfare benefits. "

The above is a real news article from December 6th of last year. The truly sad point was that this was in the odd news section and was considered funny. China is the nation with the fastest growing rate of new Christians. It is also one of the highest on the list of Christian persecution. We at His Will Ministry are just seeing the borders of China open to us. But, we need your prayers and support in this project to reach China.

Over the last year the Lord as truly shown me just how hungry many nations are. We can only reach these loved ones with your support and prayers.

Love Ya
Pastor A. J.

TEACHING OF THE MONTH

Why Study? By Scott Adams

Why study God's word? With a world that is as busy as it is why take time to study God's word? We are bombarded on every side with activities and entertainment's that can and do consume our lives. But why take time to study God's word, The Holy Bible? Jesus said, "**learn of me.**"

The first reason that I want to list is to know God. The apostle Paul said that this was so important to him that he '**counted all things loss that he might win Christ**', and he said in Phillipians 3:10, "**That I may know Him.**" To know God and to serve Him was the most important thing in his life. But look in verse 8 of the same chapter and we are able narrow this down even more. He said for the, "**knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.**" When we go to John 5:39 we find that it is possible to read God's word and miss Jesus Christ. Now you would think that this was not possible with God's very own chosen people, the Jews. That is exactly who Jesus is talking to though. He said, "**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think that ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**" The point is that we need to study God's word to know Jesus Christ God's Son, who came to take away the sin of the world. Moses and the prophets wrote about Him (see Jn 5:46, Lk 24:27, Acts 26:22). Know God's will, know His voice, His ways, but don't deny the power by not knowing the very God of this living word. Can you know God without seeking Him, without searching for Him with all your heart? If His word isn't alive to you, you better wonder if He is alive in you. Heb 4:12 says the word of God is alive. John 1:1 says: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. Let me suggest that if this word is not

precious to you that Jesus is not precious to you. If this word is not precious to you, you are lukewarm. Study to know about God, study to know God.

God's word also is a source of comfort. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4) As we go through tests and trials we hold onto God's promises, we stand on His word, we pray His word, remind Him of His word, we are comforted by these precious promises.

Faith is another reason we study. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) The word of God produces faith in our hearts. I pray I'll never forget when I first read Romans 10: 9, 10 that says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Jesus from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." This produced faith to ask God to forgive me and save me. I remember I was so amazed to be able to read God's word and understand it.

Another reason is to "study to show thyself approved unto God", as it says in 2Tim 2:15, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." I would like to add to this, that even if you're not studying to be a pastor, you are still called by God in 1 Pet 3:15, "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" We are all called to know what we believe. It is so seldom that when I ask people what they believe is the way of salvation, that they give an answer that lines up with what God says in His word. We are responsible to know what God says not only for us, but for all those who God allows us to influence.

Preachers are commanded in 2Tim 4:2 to "Preach the word". The next reason I would like to point out is found in Acts 17:11. If you "receive the word with all readiness of mind, and search the scriptures daily, whether those things are so," God considers you more noble. That's a good thing!

We need the cleansing power of God's word in our lives. God's word is a searchlight that will reveal sin in our lives to us. Those sins that, many times, we don't even realize. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119: 105) There are many places that Jesus and the word are each called a light. Again in Hebrews 4:12,13 God says that His word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. As we study God's word he reveals sin in our lives to set us on the path of life (see also Prov 6:23) "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31,32).

The word of God is the weapon that Jesus used against Satan in Matthew 4 at the temptation in the dessert. It is the sword of the Spirit in Galatians 6, part of the 'whole amour of God'. Heaven and Earth will pass away but God's word will never pass away. How important is this word for us?!

²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;

and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

I know many books have been written on this subject, and I don't claim that this list is complete, but we can never plumb the depths of God's word, but God's word is complete and He can and has provided all things in His word.

Remember, "Time spent fishing FOR MEN cannot be deducted from a man's life" when it's done in and for the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Amen!

God Bless all of you Brother Scott.

P.S. grouchy men do not make good witnesses of Jesus' love to others!

WHAT YOUR INVESTMENT IN THIS MINISTRY DOES DEPARTMENT

Below is the testimony of Grace Firempong. She first contacted us after hearing the ministries program Where the Rubber Meets the Road on Sunny 88.7 FM in Accra, Ghana. Mary and her have developed a relationship of support and teaching.

My name is Grace Firempong and I am a 26 year old Ghanaian. I grew up in a Christian home in Australia and later in Kenya, where my father was 1st getting his Ph.D and then working as an entomologist. My father always spent me with me and taught me how to ride a bike, use the dictionary and everything about God. I got my 1st children's Bible for my birthday when I was 6.

When I was 13 I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.



That was when My father was diagnosed with brain cancer. He died when I was 18. When I was 23 I went to London for the summer holidays and when I got home I started to ask God to use me to change the world. I prayed for 1 year and 4 months until I started seeing changes. When I ask for something in particular concerning the changes I ask for He usually does it. I used to pray that if I could have just one thing it would be to have all the children in the world as my own so that I could love them. Now I have a degree in Botany and work at the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research In Accra, Ghana, where I

was born.

A poem By Mary Warner

ANOTHER YEAR

Another year has come and gone, it passed so swiftly by,
It held the promise of all years, it made us laugh and cry,
What will the new year have in store, will it hold the day,
We see our blessed Lord return, and we are caught away,



Are you ready, friend, to see Him, is your candle burning
bright,

Are you ready to stand before Him, in that awesome light,
Is He ruling in your life today, are you walking in His will,
Has your heart grown cold, or are you yearning for Him still,
The days are short, believe it, we could hear the trumpet's
shout,

Don't tarry so long in this world, that you miss the best way
out,

For evil lurks at every turn and dark its path will pave.
Run into His mighty arms today, for He is strong to save,
Jesus, Our blessed Jesus, let Him rule your heart this year,
Let Him love and comfort you, let Him wipe away each tear,
Let Him be your rescuer from all that hurts and harms,
You will find a wondrous refuge in His mighty arms.

John 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. ¹⁸“There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God.