



First Light Herald April 2006

Time in Mexico

Thursday, March 23rd El Paso, TX and Juarez, Mexico

We had a lot of fun during our trip to Mexico and New Mexico. We went on a ministry errand, but took a day to play in Juarez. It's quite a long drive from Gardendale to Juarez, but the benefits are some new scenery and time to reflect on all that was accomplished during the Five Day Bible Club as well as the lessons learned in preparing for this fun time.

Thursday

We took off early for all parts south and most of the day was spent with Jeff driving and the two of us talking about each of the children we met and how they impacted our lives. One boy stood out above the rest. He had missed the party on the last day and had come by the following day to pick up his bible and his craft projects. His sister was too young to attend so he had blessed her with all his prizes. When given the opportunity to pick from the daily prize box, he had always chosen something his little sister would like; a jump rope, some crayons, etc. He had written her name on all of his craft projects so that she would benefit from the fun he had had during the week. When he came to pick up his things we gave him an additional opportunity to pick prizes. He chose a gift for his sister. We let him pick something for himself as well. We were well impressed with this young boy and his selfless nature. May we all be so minded.

We arrived in El Paso, TX much earlier than anticipated so after checking into the hotel we called ahead to the office where our ministry errand was to be taken care of. We were taken to Juarez and finished our task way ahead of time as well. We decided to spend the next day just playing in Mexico.

Friday, March 24th Juarez, Mexico

Morning and Afternoon

We took a trolley from El Paso to Juarez and once inside the country we were dropped off for an adventure south of the Border. We began at a small curio shop and saw a museum not on our charted path. We decided to investigate and found some children from a local school being taught about the art on the walls. The tour guides used a puppet to teach the children, and we followed them around the museum. We later shopped in the Mercado, a favorite place. We bartered and just had a generally good time. We were exhausted from our adventure, but the diversion was much needed.



Saturday, March 25th Las Cruces, New Mexico

We left early from El Paso for Las Cruces. There we met with an evangelist, his wife and son (a new pastor). We broke bread and shared the word. They were refreshed and we were pooped. As is the norm the attacks of the enemy were fierce following our visit. We spent a day recuperating in a hotel in El Paso. The Lord saw us through the physical attack and we made our way home to Gardendale.

Reporting Praise

We had a very successful Five Day Bible Club for the children here in our trailer park. We worked very hard for those five days and the results were 12 salvations and almost as many re-dedications. Now comes the real work, the follow up. If we will disciple these children we will have 24 less children who will become irresponsible adults. If you look around you where you live you will see this is true. There are far more children that are lost without focus than there are disciplined children. So we now press into teaching these kids on an ongoing basis. We desire to continue the club meetings for one day each week during the summer. We ask for your prayers as we prepare to do this.

We need to gather the resources to do the work. We need to have all the lesson plans done long before they come. We need to do the inviting. We need to have strength to continue as this is a very physically challenging job. We need the time to dedicate and we need helpers to do

some of the work. So there is a huge prayer list, but one we share as we need your prayers most of all.

The children's hearts were knit to our hearts. They went away full of love, the word and lots of goodies. They were fed a light breakfast and a snack everyday and that too was fulfilling. So we ask you to press in with intercession as we make soldiers in God's army of these tiny charges.



Belorussian Connection

Pastors Pavel, Ernst and Ludmilla came and shared their hearts with the Odessa part of the Body of Christ. Their stories of evangelical conquests in Belarus and China were awesome and fired us up. We as the part of the Body in the Permian basin were able to bless them in a big way thanks to your generosity. A stronger connection was made between us in that they were willing to make the trip here to hear from the Spirit what God is doing through an Apostle here in W. Texas. It was so exciting to see the interaction and once again hear of the miracles of God such as we read of in the book of Acts. Our faith was built up and Jeff and I were so refreshed spiritually. The zeal of God is once again a burning fire and we are ready to hit the ground running spiritually.



Vacation Plans

We would like to take a vacation sometime in April so we ask for your prayers. Timing along with obedience is everything in the kingdom of God. We want to go to the right place as well as do the right things at the right time in order to be emotionally and physically revived. We ask for your prayers in this. Ministers of the gospel must resort from time to time or else they die. It's as simple as that. So when you're seeking the Father for us, please add this to your prayers.

Divine Appointments

When one walks listening to the Voice of God, He rewards with divine appointments. We have had more than our share in the past month. These appointments are signs to us that we are on the right road. We want each one of you to have such appointments as well so we pray for the same to come your way to lift, edify and encourage you on your path.

Natural Needs

We ask for prayer in the following areas so that we can focus on what God has called US to do. We need a mechanic to help us repair the donated cars that have come our way. We have two cars that have waiting homes (and constantly have opportunity for more to show up) that are in need of minor repairs. Jeff can do only so much and the needs are growing within the Body. He is not one to ask, but I on the other hand am bold as a lioness. HELP. We don't want to hire anyone like an employee, but know that whoever is called for the job will be blessed beyond measure. We don't believe in muzzling anyone who is working or helping. We do believe the Body should care for itself by members helping each other.

We need more space. We live in a good sized mobile home, but it's full of older computers and ministry resources that need to be either repaired or stored until they are needed. We ask as a matter of needing prayer more than anything. We are quite content with our home for just we two, but God has called us to minister to so many that our rooms end up being full of things the normal couple would never have to deal with. We don't want some separate storage building that we can't access easily. We are in a hard place, just not quite knowing what we need. So pray, please pray. We aren't in a hurry, but disorder of any kind is not comfortable. Working around things that should be stored in a better way is frustrating. We

believe we are supposed to distribute to the Body things that are in good working order and without charge.

God has given us land and a small building, but it is already overfilled with computer parts, clothing and tools. Jeff has limited time to sort it all out and without space to store and keep it from mice and moths it will end up wasted.

We work hard to be good stewards of the blessings God has given us. We aren't interested in just building barns and bestowing the stuff on ourselves, but we do want to store for distribution. God always shows us where things should go, but when the blessings overtake us we just have to cry out for help. HELP.

Final Thoughts

God through Yacov (James 4:2) told us we have not because we ask not. Each member in the Body is blessed with certain gifts, callings and natural stuff. In the first century congregations they were under persecution so they pulled together in a special way. We would love to see this sort of thing without the persecution, but aren't sure that it is possible. We do believe that each one of you hear His Voice and obey. So if you have answer to any of these areas, please do not hesitate to communicate with us. When one member of a human body works in unity with another member the body functions in a harmonious way. If I have a glass of water and you are thirsty it is only normal and right to give it to you. So we are excited to see how this is going to work outside of constant persecution. We are daily vexed in our righteous souls by the filthy communication of the lost, but again with the Greater One on the inside of us we shall prevail. Blessings as you hear and obey.

The Head of the Body; Christ The Apostle's Doctrine

Col 1:18

He is the head of the body, the *church* (a called out people): who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Eph 4:15

Speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Eph 4:11-12

[Jesus] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13

Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

In all the traveling and sitting and talking and listening to many people in the body of Christ it has become apparent to me that this is not an obvious Truth. I am finding that people by the score do not fully understand what the body of *Christ* is. Yes it is a whole bunch of people that have accepted Jesus as their Lord. But it is much more than that alone.

1st we are a spiritual body made up of many members, members that have been, by His grace through our faith, made alive by the Spirit of God. To be with Him for eternity never to be separated from Him, but we are that body NOW. It is not something to wait for. We *are* as Jesus *is* now in this world. Why doesn't it seem to be that way? It's because of the second truth that many have not been taught;

2nd we are a soulish body made up of many members, members that have been made the righteousness of God in Christ and have no consciousness of sin. People walking on this planet with a right mind before God, these have the mind of Christ. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted”. Isaiah was speaking of Jesus soul, His mind, will, and emotions being tormented for us so our souls (our minds, wills, and emotions) could be free from torment. Again this is not something to wait for we have it NOW. Why don’t we believe that to be true? Because of the third truth that many do now know.

3rd we are a fleshly body made up of many members, members that have been healed by the stripes of Jesus, shalom-nothing missing, nothing broken. We are the word made flesh in the earthen vessels we call our bodies. He offered His flesh body to be broken for us so we could walk in newness of life and that life is more abundant than people living outside the body of Christ. We have heard for so long that abundant life means money and that is where many stop, but is so much more than mere money. It is health as well as wealth, and it is knowing Truth and that Truth we know makes us free from all bondage the devil has to offer us. Why do so many take the devil’s offer of bondage? “*Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*”.

Fear of death is something all the members in the body of Christ should never have. We had all the death we will ever experience when we asked Jesus to save us. Not one member of the Body of Christ will ever see death (separation from God). Yes we may see the end of our days here on earth in these flesh bodies but we don’t die, we are eternal beings NOW! Just like Jesus is right now here in this world. Jesus is glorified and we are that glory. That brings us to what I believe to be the most important word from the Holy Spirit today to all that have ears to hear; Jesus gave gifts unto men (people) to perfect or bring to maturity His body on this earth to do the work of the ministry. The apostle and prophet being the very foundation of that body of called out people. When you reach a point in your life sitting in the teaching of the apostle and prophet where you know you are a mature son or daughter of the Most High it is time to GO and do the work of the ministry. What is your ministry you may ask, only God can show you. Your ministry comes only after discipleship, being placed upon an apostolic and a prophetic foundation. You must have a foundation that cannot be shaken by the surroundings of this world and all its circumstances. Being a disciple is not a lifetime project or at least shouldn’t be. The way the “church” is run today is not to get you ready to send you out. The church as we see it today is run like a business that needs you there until Jesus comes. I have found very few in that “church” setting that has any idea why they were born-again into the kingdom of God! They feel bad if they don’t “go” to church, not understanding fully that they are part of something much larger and that in fact they themselves are the body of Christ and wherever they are the “church” is.

We will all come into the unity of one faith, walking with complete knowledge of the Son of God becoming one (mature) perfect man, being the full measure of the stature of Christ, but a body made up of many members. No disciples only mature sons and daughters. This will only come as you submit yourselves to the true apostolic and prophetic foundation.

Love Personified

Many years ago when faced with a life or death situation I sought out the Father and His wisdom. I had been given man’s answers to my situation and they were far from satisfying or helpful. Having already given my life to the Lord my only recourse was to get God’s answer and obey it. Again, I will mention that I was in a life or death situation. I won’t go into the details of my story, but let it suffice to say that I would have died without God’s answer to my situation. I have only heard God speak to me in my ears a couple of times. This was one of those times. Most of the time I hear a still small voice within my spirit and then follow it. This time I had to hear very clearly so God’s grace allowed me to hear with my natural ears. Now mind you no one else around me heard His answer, but He was speaking nonetheless. He told me, “Love them, they don’t know what love is.” Basically God was telling me that the people involved didn’t know Him. He was more than gracious as He didn’t mention the fact that I didn’t know Him very well myself. I certainly didn’t have a clue how to love the way He was talking about that day. I am still learning about the love He asked me to demonstrate.

In 1 Corinthians 13 we have a really awesome promise from God. He told us through the apostle Paul that love NEVER fails. In affect, when God told me to love the parties involved, He was giving me a foolproof solution to my problem. It turned out to be the truth and it not only healed me of a deadly illness in my body, but answered the horrific situation I was in the midst of.

Matthew 24:12 the word says, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." We read this and dangerously pass by without much thought, BUT if we consider that "faith works by love" we wouldn't be so blasé about it. If our hearts are hardened and our love waxes cold we won't be able to produce the faith we need to live in these dark days. Perfected love casts out fear. Mature love sends fear packing. No love equals fear filled minds and hearts. Fear filled minds and hearts produce tormented souls. I've seen my share of tormented believers. They hide in their homes, hoard food, worry about every little thing and fill up on the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They do little FOR the Body of Christ and even less for the lost.

God is calling us to be like Him. God is speaking to us to walk led of His Holy Spirit, the spirit of Compassion or LOVE. He promised that if we allow the Holy Spirit (the spirit of Compassion) to lead we would NOT fulfill the lust (the opposite of love) of the flesh.

I used to be a fear monger. I ate, drank and lived in constant fear. Now mind you fear still shows up at my doorsteps, but I'm much more in tuned to the devices of the spirit of fear and better at recognizing and resisting it. We're told we can exercise our senses to discern between good and evil and I'm learning how to do this so I can share with the Body how to do this.

The Father has given us some helps to walking in love. First He told us that His love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He told us that love was the fruit of walking led of the Spirit. He told us in 1 Corinthians 13 and 1, 2, and 3 John the qualities of His Spirit of Compassion. He taught us how to recognize love and how to recognize lust. I exhort each person who reads this article not to just read it and think, "Gee that was a good article and I feel better for having read it." I exhort you to make it a discipline to begin to search for God and love throughout the bible. The more we know about love the more we know about God. The more we relate love to God and God to love the more we'll understand that godliness is loveliness! When the time comes to produce faith from our hearts, we will be soft enough to hear God's voice and walk led of His Holy Spirit. We will walk above the raging white-capped waters of the world below us. We will be like the Lord who walked on the stormy waters rather than drowning in a sea of fear and failure.

God has not fallen off His throne and His love is our answer. He is still sending out answers to us if we have ears to hear. Look at the word heart. Let me illustrate with a little adjustment of my fonts. **HearT**. Can you see the tiny word in the midst of heart? It is ear. You need to watch out for anything that would harden your heart to hearing the voice of God. Bitterness is a wicked nasty cancer. I will leave you with a list of deadly things and allow the Spirit of God (LOVE) to help you examine your hearts for the things that affect your ability to produce the power of God in your lives.

- ★ Unforgiveness (about even the deadliest sins)
- ★ Grudges (keeping records of suffered wrongs)
- ★ Wanting vengeance
- ★ Bitterness
- ★ Lust of natural things (anything natural)
- ★ Worry (this is a favorite sin of Christians because it masquerades as wisdom)
- ★ Rehearsing the things folks have done to you
- ★ Envy
- ★ Pride (telling others of your accomplishments-even the tiny ones)
- ★ Comparison of self to others (I'm not as bad as so and so)
- ★ Pointing out others faults, failings and weaknesses (sin too)
- ★ Focusing on every awful thing coming or about to come on the planet (another kind of worry)
- ★ Offense (hurt feelings over anything at all)

Pictures of the Belorussian Ministers



Luda



Ernst



Pavel

Five Day Club



Mustard Seed Faith

Luke 17:5 and Matthew 17:20 the Lord speaks to his disciples. They have just been asked to forgive the same person over and over. In fact they've been asked to forgive 70 times 7 times. That's a lot of forgiving. They beg him, "Increase our faith". So how did he increase their faith? He taught them yet another lesson about sowing. He basically said, "Forgive a little". If you are willing to see that EVERYTHING you do involves sowing and reaping and that the smallest seed can produce a huge harvest, then when it seems impossible to forgive and forget you can see that sowing a little forgiveness will eventually reap a huge harvest. How do we begin to forgive a little? We say we will forgive. The Lord said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall *say* unto this mountain". Forgiving some people is like dealing with a huge mountain. Some people seem to go out of their way to be obnoxious. Others are just plain wicked, but the only thing that will break through the hard shell that has become their heart is to forgive and love them. Saying, "I forgive you" even if that person doesn't hear your words is like a mustard seed. It can go into the heart of the most hard-packed soul and begin to grow.



When the Father spoke His saving words in the Garden of Eden He was sowing seeds of forgiveness. He was sowing what looked like smaller than mustard seeds, but today we see that Yeshua/Jesus was that mustard seed of forgiveness and hope. He sowed hoping for a huge harvest and here we are. You will always have the opportunity to put this kind of gardening into practice. The world is full of unlovely people and the more seeds of forgiveness you sow, the greater the kingdom of heaven will become.

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