


Saving the Lost, Loving the Unlovable

Home of Refuge

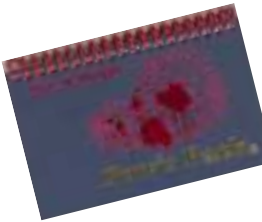



Feliz Ano Nuevo from Homes of Refuge!

My heart is very grateful for the supernatural joy that Tony and I were able to bring to the children in Peru this last month, thanks to your generous support. With each visit, the Lord has enabled us to provide the Santa Maria Orphanage with much needed food and supplies, and this month...even FUN! We not only stocked their food pantry again, but also paid for the installation of Direct TV on a brand new 42" screen, and left them with a variety of good, clean DVD's to watch on their new DVD player. It was amazing to see how happy this made the children - both young and old - as well as the directors themselves. They have standards/supervision in place so that this remains a blessing for all, and they are greatly looking forward to watching cartoons, sports (European football is a favorite!), and educational programming. Thank you very much for helping put some of the largest smiles on their faces that I have seen yet! (to be continued next month)





**In 2012
You have what
You say,
in Jesus' Name!
(Mark 9:23)**



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**"Call To Freedom"
New Year Meeting on
Saturday, January 14th
@ 8:30 A.M.
For Reservations:
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"If Not You...Who?"

by Barbara Carmack

There is a segment of society who is always putting the responsibility, of the situation they are in, on someone else or an agency. And often there are others, in the Body of Jesus Christ, who depend on others to get what they want. It may be that a "poverty mind-set" has influenced them to believe that if others don't do anything, they will die poor. It is wrong for you to think that someone else needs to do the praying or interceding for you. Jesus instructed His disciples and those who followed Him, that they should pray, on their own behalf, in the Name of Jesus, and His heavenly Father would answer their request. Never did Jesus say that you have to go to someone to pray for you, or that there was a person of higher, spiritual rank that you had to go to in order to get your prayers answered.

GOD has spoken, through His Word, that what you say with a believing heart will be heard by Him. It's quite disheartening to Holy Spirit and it really grieves His heart to see Believers running all over the place to get their prayers answered when He's there - in the midst of them. GOD has called you to a lifestyle of faith and endurance, and this is not just for your pastor or head of the church board. Every member of the Body of Jesus Christ has a mission and a calling to fulfill, and when they depend on someone else, because of laziness or pride, it affects the entire Body.

GOD has called you to fight the good fight of faith...and He has called YOU to finish the race that is set before you...not your Brother or your Sister, but YOU! Paul mentioned in Romans 12:10-13, to be fervent (on fire!) in spirit and not lagging behind in diligence in serving the Lord. Also, in I Timothy 6:12, he gives these instructions **"Fight the good fight of faith for GOD. Hold tightly to the eternal life that GOD has given you and that you have confessed with such a ringing confession before many witnesses."** Paul finishes his discourse in II Timothy with, **"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the Crown of Righteousness which the LORD, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, when I stand before Him."**

Paul was looking forward to that day of being with GOD because he had been fervent in the calling that GOD had called him to - he had not stood by and sloughed his assignment or "wimped out" and expected someone else to do the work that GOD had chosen for him to do.

Challenge yourself in this New Year that you will ask the Lord to give you a new zeal - a new enthusiasm - to work harder for Him...to listen to the Spirit and learn from Him. When you learn from Holy Spirit, He will give you the patience (endurance) to run the race, He will give you the direction - the path that you need to be on, the determination to "go for it!" and the strength to accomplish all that He assigned to you. He doesn't want you to rust out...He wants you to run to full capacity - He has set before you an open door which no one can shut, because He has given you the power that you need to accomplish your blueprint on this earth...He says to you, **"...you have kept My Word and have not denied My Name, and I will make you a pillar in the temple of My GOD!"** (Rev. 3:8, 12)

GOD needs you to do your part!



The Bible In The News...

The following address was delivered in Congress by Senator Barak H. Obama in March of 2006: "The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing American's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here!' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better!"



One of the things that GOD warned His people about was duplicity...saying one thing and then in an instant, saying something completely different and contradictory to what was said just previously. The people of GOD must stand against deception, and GOD warned that in the last days there would be a deluding spirit to make them believe what was false (II Thessalonians 2:11). There is so much falsehood spread through words going out over the air waves and T.V. and the internet. GOD's people must pray that the Spirit of GOD will bring on His people a Spirit of Wisdom, a Spirit of Understanding, a Spirit of Counsel, a Spirit of Might, a Spirit of Reverence for GOD, and a Spirit of Revelation Knowledge in the Truth of GOD's Word described in Isaiah 11:2.

This is the perfect time for you to begin a daily regimen of reading through the most important Book in your home and in your life - The Bible. If you would like to follow along with the Pow'r Partners of Call To Freedom, simply call 1-866-917-7256 and ask for a Word Pow'r Bible Guide. It will prepare your heart not only for the days ahead but give you the wisdom to make the wise decisions you will need to make in this pivotal year for, not only the U.S., but for the entire planet. GOD make you strong in the power of His Might in 2012! (Ephesians 6:10)

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." - C.S. Lewis (1895-1963)

(e-mail submitted by Jerry Becker)



Heart Cries and Praise Reports



Dear Barbara, Thank you for the Word Pow'r booklets; they are great for encouraging people to get into the Word. I have given many away. I thank you and Derin for getting me back into the Word many years ago. Mark 4:24-25 really jumped out at me the other morning. As we grow in the Word, Holy Spirit will give us more revelation and understanding. GOD bless you, Barbara (Canby, OR)

Dear Barbara, My husband was hurt getting squeezed between the bucket on the skid steer and the vehicle itself. He was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. On the way to the hospital I prayed violently in the Spirit and awesome peace came over me. After they X-rayed and did a CAT-Scan, they found no broken bones, only a bruised liver and pancreas. He was sore but nothing worse, praise GOD! I believe there were big angels and the breath of GOD came back to him. I took Communion that morning and I know we saw a miracle! Love, Bernadette (northern Colorado)



"Hungry Hearts In China"

by Shelly Donahue - Eaton, Co



I am so thankful for the privilege to take a trip like this and see GOD at work in China. As a member of a mission's team that arrived in Lanzhou, China, one of the first things we did was "prayer-walk" the university campus on Saturday after our first official Chinese meal - twelve different, yummy dishes that Rob, a member of our team, ordered because he speaks Chinese. After we ate, we met students by just smiling, waving and saying "Hello." They immediately smiled back and started speaking English if they could. We made friends right away! Rob was asked to play in a pickup basketball game and we stood by to cheer and build relationships. Sunday we fellowshipped in a "house church" with Rob's friends - five of them - eight of us. We sang praise songs, his friend delivered the Word and we had a sweet time of prayer for one another. Rob's friend, Maria, an American, runs a home orphanage for 5 toddlers/infants - all but one have special needs. They were precious little souls. Please remember Maria and those babies in your prayers - that she would have the help physically and financially that she needs to care for them until they are adopted. Several days, three of our team members were in Maria's home to help her with the babies.

On Monday through Friday we were given favor to teach in the university classes from 8-4 every day while their English professors attended a national conference. We were in teams of two and rotated partners all week. I delivered power point slideshows every day and it was very well received. In China they do not speak of sex in school or at home, so it was quite a shock/surprise for them to hear a message on biblical sex in a godly relationship. Some of them were post-graduate students, but it was like presenting it to 7th graders in America. Their evaluations were stellar! They responded so well, and asked if we could have more time to learn more, and they were thankful that I would share the message of healthy, sexual relationships. The Chinese honor abstinence until marriage and ninety percent of them had never dated, so this was all new information to them.

Monday through Wednesday nights we were invited to do "English corners" on campus after dinner. Hundreds of students came back from 7-9pm to practice their English with us. Again, we split into teams so conversations could be more personal. The Chinese are very intimidated to speak English aloud - they don't think they speak well and they're embarrassed. We all could understand them and thought they spoke well. I was asked, "Have you always been this confident in your body at your height (I'm over 6' tall)?" Rob tapped me under the table and said, "Go for it." I did - I spoke a long time and shared my testimony in detail about what Jesus has done in my heart/life, and how I know He made me this height for His glory and His purpose. Right after I finished sharing, a guy raised his hand and said, "I'm a reporter." Rob tapped me again and said, "Get ready Shel - we're goin' to jail!" It was the only time I felt a twinge of fear while I was there. We prayed under our breath immediately that GOD would cover my words with His grace and He did! Of course He did!!! The next day, a student from that English corner approached me after class and said, "I've watched you all week and you're always happy. What makes you smile all the time?" I reached into my backpack and pulled out a Chinese/English Bible and said, "Read this every day and you will be happy and smile too!" She started weeping; she asked, "You are giving me a gift?" I replied, "Yes, it's the greatest gift you can ever receive - life with Jesus. And...you can practice your English!" She was delighted! Similar situations happened to all of us all week long. We taught classes to approximately 1600 students and gave out 80 Bibles while we were there - glory to GOD! Isn't GOD fun!?!?!?

At the University banquet on Thursday night, I sat next to one of the Deans named "Sherry" - she thought we had the same name cuz no one can say "Shelly" in China - they don't say their "I's" well! Anyway...she asked me how I was invited to come to China. I shared my story, and then I asked her if she attended church and she whispered, "Yes, a home church." I got jazzed and whispered back, "You're a Believer!" We both got so excited! I shared with her how we had testified to some of her students and she wanted their names to invite them to her home church! GOD is so-o-o good! We flew to Beijing Friday night and stayed in a hotel - very metropolitan - shopping everywhere - Gucci - Rolex, etc.! Our trip hardly felt "missionary-like" except in Lanzhou where there was more poverty, dirt roads, crazier traffic, etc. In fact, the biggest danger we faced all week in both cities was being hit by a car, bus, motorcycle, or bicycle. Beijing has 19 million people and 5 million cars! No one stays in a lane, they don't use their blinker, they honk to let you know they're about to hit you and they drive very fast. We feared for our lives several times in the taxis - it was crazy! Saturday a guide took us 1.5 hrs. north of Beijing to see The Great Wall, and it is GREAT! It is unbelievable! It's 3000 miles long and separates Mongolia from China. In the 1400's, every man 18-55 yrs. old was ordered to help build the wall with no pay. The Wall was opened to tourists in the 1930's since they don't need it to divide their country any more. It definitely is one of the Wonders of the World! The last night we gathered for to sing and to pray, to honor GOD with thanksgiving for the many ways He blessed us during our visit to China. We saw His hand of love, grace and provision so many times and in so many ways on our trip....All Glory To GOD!