

Dear Partners in the Lord's work,

We are sorry to be so long in sending out this newsletter, but we have been gone on a long ministering trip. We left here on Dec. 9, 2001 and got back home the night of Jan. 8, 2002. But, then we were only home for a few days and had to go New Braunfels, TX and then Abilene, TX. So, we haven't been home long enough to write before now. We thank you all for not forgetting about us though, for remembering us in your prayers, because we certainly needed them, and for your financial blessings too, which were also very needed. God bless you all. We didn't forget about you either; we prayed for you nearly every day and still do.

Well, we had a wonderful trip together ministering God's love to many people in four states, and encouraging those that needed to be lifted up in spirit. We had a couple of meetings here in Lubbock before we left, and the brothers and sisters graciously sent us off with prayers and love offerings. Also, a fellowship of believers in Clovis, New Mexico blessed us again on our first morning of the trip. God is so good, and we really appreciate the other members in the Body of Christ knowing their calling and fulfilling it, so that the gospel gets taken to the lost of the world. We may be called to go and take it to them, and you may be called to stay and give, but working together we all have a part in every soul that comes to Christ. Praise the Lord!

What a blessing it was to have Betty with me! She has not been able to go with me very much recently because of her health problems, and also taking care of her mother who is in ill health. God graciously kept her healthy and free of pain the whole time we were gone, praise the Lord! We know it was because of your prayers. She is going to try and go with me to minister here in the States as often as possible from now on. Of course, she will not be able to go with me on my foreign mission trips though. So do pray with me that God will send a brother in the Lord to accompany me on those trips. I would love it if some young man in need of discipling and training in missionary work were to come along with me. God will provide.

We were blessed with a little 10ft. travel trailer by a precious brother and sister in Arizona, so we wouldn't have to use a lot of the Lord's money staying in motels or eating out. It is beautiful how the Lord is blessing this ministry through this brother and sister and so many others. All glory to the Lord! We had many comfortable nights sleep in that trailer. PTL! Plus saved lots of money too!

On this trip, we ministered in some home groups, and also to some individual families. Many were brothers and sisters we had not seen in over 20 years, and some new families that we had never met before. There was one family that had lost a daughter last February in need of comfort and counsel. We were happy that we could be there to share their grief and pray that in some small way we were able to minister the love of Jesus to them and relieve some of their suffering. Another family, the niece had asked us to go minister the gospel to her atheist uncle. We did, and found that his wife was already a Christian, which gave us an open door to give our salvation testimonies, and sing songs of the Lord for them. We felt that the seed was well planted and that God will send others now to water it and in the future reap that man's soul for Jesus!

The main reason for the trip though was because I felt the Lord wanted me to go and minister in East Los Angeles. Which I did get to do, glory to God! I went to the Watts area, which I was told by many people, is the worst place for gangs and drugs etc. The Lord told me to go on New Year's Eve, which was supposed to be the worse time to go down in that area, as everyone would be drinking and celebrating. As I drove around the area earlier in the day, I stopped and talked to different people and asked where I should go? Finally I settled on a certain corner and went there about nine o'clock at night, I took some cupcakes and orange drink to give away, because I knew that the people were mostly homeless and would be hungry. I wanted to meet their physical need as well as the spiritual. I observed practically all stores, fast food places and gas stations were bulletproof, and you paid for and received your merchandise through bulletproof windows with turnout drawers. I could clearly see that this was not a very safe place to be, but I also knew that perfect love casts out fear, and that if you have love for those people in your heart, then you cannot fear them at the same time. God gave me a strong love for them. Also, our weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God to pulling down imaginations and taking captive every thought. So I did just that, I took captive of my own thoughts, and it worked! Hallelujah!! I had no fear!!

I parked on a corner and sat in my car for awhile until a fearsome looking man approached me. He told me that if I stayed sitting in my car like that that I was in danger, and demanded to know why I was there and what I intended to do? He said that they had never seen a white man in that area without a badge, a gun and a dog. They thought I was a police officer on stakeout, and were afraid of me. After I told him that I had come to tell the people of the love of Jesus and had brought food to give away, he let me know that he was the leader of the area and would give me permission to stay. He told a gas station that I would be parking under their light and then went and told the people not to be afraid. They slowly came up to me and I was able to minister in song, prayer and preaching to them. I had about a dozen that wanted prayer that night. I was moved in my spirit for the plight of these people. Some so far gone on drugs that they could no longer speak coherently. And knowing they would all be laying down on a bare side-walk to sleep that night, which was a very cold night by the way, it reminded me so much of my experiences in India. I could hardly believe that here in our United States we have people with no other home but the street!! No matter the reason they were there, they are human beings and I had the compassion of Jesus for them

They finally came and told me I had to leave for my own safety, as something bad was going down pretty soon. They begged to come back and I promised I'd be back the next day. They said, "Please don't lie to us!" Well, I did go back, this time with fried chicken for

their New Year's Day dinner! Many more came to listen to God's word and the singing, and many more wanted prayer for salvation, deliverance and healing. Not only for themselves, but their families. They again asked when I would be back and when I told them I had to leave they started to cry. I told them I'd try to be back next year around the same time and they said, "Most of us will be dead by then!" When I left, I couldn't drive I was crying so hard. I asked the Lord, "Why do I have to leave them so soon?" He just ministered to my spirit to trust Him and obey, so I did. I had to trust that if any of the seed that I had planted had fallen into good soil, that the Lord was very able finish the work that he had started in them! Praise His Name! I drove for hours during the day trying to find a church or mission but found none. I have heard of others brothers with ministries in the Watts area, but it is a huge area, with many thousands of people. Pray for more laborers in that harvest field. I'm sure the Lord will help the ones who really got saved to find a place to grow and worship.

In Arizona, on our way back home, the Lord showed me why I had had to leave East L.A. when I did. We were invited to minister at a home meeting way out in the desert outside Tucson. When we arrived, we found that the brother had met two Mexican men out in the desert that day that hadn't eaten for four days. He had fed them and let them clean up and got them to stay for the meeting. So, Betty and I got to minister to them for quite a while in Spanish. They told us that they had been picked up by the Border Patrol some days earlier, but like a miracle the officers had let them go at three o'clock the next morning and had even told them a shorter way to walk. They had not let any of the other prisoners go, only those two men! This was all in God's perfect timing, them being let go, the brother finding them and inviting them home with him, and us showing up on the exact right night to minister the gospel to them! They both prayed for Jesus to be their Savior that night. Then we sent them off into the night with Jesus in their hearts, fed, clean, a new sleeping bag (from the brother), and a love offering from Betty and I. This is why we must be obedient when the Lord speaks to us even though sometimes it doesn't make sense to us. God knows what He is doing, and what He wants us to do! Glory to His Name!!

Well, now on to the future! I will be going to minister to the Seri Indians in Sonora, Old Mexico for the whole month of February. They are desperately in need of some encouragement and rebuilding of the work we started with them ten years ago. On my last visit there, I found that the brother I had left in charge to lead the believers had fallen from grace and the people were scattering. They begged me to come back and I promised I would. I want to stay with them long enough to be able to give them some teaching, and the Lord willing find another man or woman to lead them. Pray with me that God raises up, or sends someone in to pastor them. It's a little different there because they live on a reservation that only Seri Indians are allowed to live on. God is able to fill this need though; nothing is too difficult for Him!

In March, Betty and I will again be ministering in various places in home meetings and churches. Then, in April, I plan to go up a river in the Southeast U.S. into the swampy areas with my pontoon boat, to minister to those people who rarely ever get out to a place to worship. God laid this river area on my heart last year when I was driving back from Florida. I don't remember which state it is in, but I will know it when I see it. Pray that God will send someone to make this trip with me too. These mission trips are ideal for anyone that feels called to the mission field and needs some hands-on training. I really love to disciple young men in this way.

In May Betty and I will again be ministering in home groups and churches in many places. Then in June and July, God has called me to go up the Alcan Highway through Canada to Alaska, to minister to the Eskimos and Indians. I have had several confirmations that this is exactly what God wants me to do. I had a prophecy from a man in California that I had never met before, and in Abilene, a brother gave me the name and number of a brother in North Pole, Alaska and said to call him. I did, and found that he has a radio and television program that reaches all of Alaska and the Yukon Territory, which he invited me to come and minister on. Also, Many Indians and Eskimos gather there every Saturday night for fellowship and I could go back with them to their villages to minister. And, there is an Indian evangelist that takes a month trip up the Yukon River that loves to take along a brother to minister with him. Then last night I met another brother in the Lord who's brother lives in North Pole, Alaska and is unsaved, and he wants me to go minister to him. I am so excited about this trip that I just hope I can restrain my flesh, because I want to again go in God's perfect timing,, not my own.

Please be in prayer with us about all these places of ministry. We need your help to get all this work for the Lord done. Isn't it wonderful that if each person fulfills his or her part in the Body of Christ that the Lord's work gets done? We may be called to go and you may be calls to stay, but to pray or give financially, but we each get credit for every soul saved equally! As I said before, we couldn't do this ministry without you, and we thank you each one for doing your part. May the Lord richly bless you. We love you all very much. So until next time, remember that we lift you up to the Lord as often as we think of you, and that is a lot!

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