

Welcome! Welcome to the fourth edition of our 2020 New Life Outreach newsletter. It is our goal to produce this newsletter quarterly, aiming to keep our friends, family and supporters up-to-date as far as what God is doing through New Life Outreach. We are planning on e-mail and on-line distribution for each edition. As we continue producing this newsletter, we may play with the format and change some things up, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. In the meantime, if you or someone you know would like to be added to our e-mail list, please send us a note at info@newlifeoutreach.us or visit us at www.newlifeoutreach.us.

What Choices Will You Make?

Prior to my having any idea as to the extent of the spread of Covid-19, the effect it would have on the economies of many countries, or the bizarre devastation currently happening in the United States; the Lord shared with me on December 24 of 2019 the following journal entry: “The days ahead will look dark on the outside, but in the midst of all that you can see is the structure of My divine plan—I am never out of control. The mind of man plans his ways but I direct His steps. You will be amazed at what I am doing and how I bring it to pass.”

On December 24, 2019, I certainly had no idea of what was just around the corner in the new year. Nonetheless, time and time again God gives us words of encouragement that mean much more than we know.

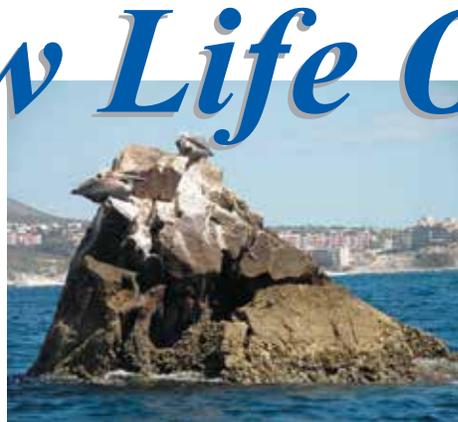
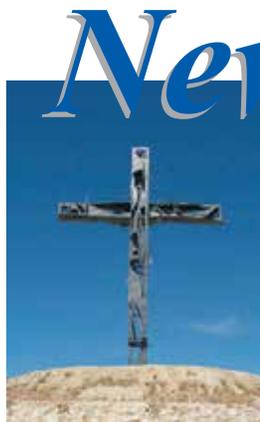
The Purpose of the Chaos

For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (Hebrews 12:6-7)

Many passages in the Bible speak of the heart-condition of those who claim to be part of the Body of Christ but have a world view and lifestyle contrary to the Word of God—as well as showing no evidence of conviction from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Although our Heavenly Father is longsuffering towards those who claim to be His people (Old and New Testaments alike), “whom the Lord loves He disciplines.” I’m not saying all that has happened in the United States since the beginning of the Covid-19 threat was ordained of God, but it certainly was allowed for the accomplishment of a purpose.

Since the first converts to Christianity in the early church, there has been, and still is, unimaginable persecution of Christians in many countries of the world. The United States as ‘One Nation under God’ was protected for years from such persecution, but her rejection of His rule, His ways, and His Word by her citizens has brought forth a dire need for divine intervention—as the only hope for a reversal of the direction the United States is headed in.

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What Choices Will You Make?, continued...

There are those among us prophesying the end of America as we know it with more ‘doom and gloom’ than I care to repeat, but God has not yet closed the door of opportunity for the citizens of this nation to repent—Christians and non-Christians alike.

An Important Part of God’s Purpose for the USA

Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; (Isaiah 46, 9-10)

The United States was ordained by God to be a country established and ruled according to Biblical principles, including the freedom to worship the One True God. Because of her foundation, along with God’s purpose for her establishment as a nation, the United States has always stood out among the other countries of the world, and God has greatly blessed her. One of her main purposes—which will not be completed until the final trumpet sound—was, and still is, to fund the worldwide, end-time harvest of souls. To date, she has already sent more Christian missionaries throughout the world than any other country, but there is much more harvest to be brought in.

God’s “expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11) for the United States has not changed, but the nation must change for it to be the vessel the Lord can use for her intended purpose. The United States has strayed so far from the principles it was founded on, it was necessary for God to get our attention, and He certainly has accomplished that goal. For those of us who claim to be born again Christians, our answer to our Heavenly Father needs to be repentance from our self-centeredness and complacency.

God’s Standard

In the seventh chapter of the Book of Amos, Amos had a vision of the Lord standing beside a wall that was built with a plumb line to see if it was still “straight.” He then tells the nation of Israel, “I will test My people with this plumb line. I will no longer ignore all their sins” (Amos 7:8 NLT). I do not believe there is a direct correlation between the resulting destruction of Israel in this passage and the present future of the United States. However, it is only because the mercy of God has allowed this present shaking while there is still time for repentance. The Lord is holding up His plumb line beside each person who professes to be a born again believer in Christ and is saying to each one of us, “The plumb line is straight and narrow and there is no other way but My way.” Which way will you choose?

The Lord is asking for nothing less than the surrender of all we have and all we are to His sovereignty. God’s way is the way of abundant life through identification with the life of Christ Who lives in every believer. His way is the way of victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, through the power of the Holy Spirit Who indwells every true believer in Christ, and His way is experiential union with Christ, since when we are born again. “He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6 NLT).

At this time in history, maybe more than ever before, we must make the choice of remaining in control of our own lives and continuing to do things our way, which brings forth “death,” or to renew our minds to think like God thinks.

*There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.
(Proverbs 14:12, author’s emphasis)*

“An hour of stripping has come upon you and upon us all. Yours is an appointment unto death—a death to all the past, a death to all self-sufficiency; a death to all ability—and a coming alive to the mind of God, to the Presence of God within. May you bear the very Presence of God and manifest His enthronement in your life.”

—Seedlings, Ivan Q. Spencer,
September 22, pg 266
(Likely written between 1920-1960)

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On December 10, 2019, the Lord shared: “My people must rise above what they think is right or they will be consumed by the turmoil around them. This is not a time for complacency, they (My people) must rise above those around them or they will become like Lot’s wife; who was so much one with the inhabitants of Sodom, her heart could not bear to leave the city without looking back.”

If we do not judge ourselves with the plumb line of the Lord and repent from that which He shows us, we will reap judgement upon ourselves as the result of our actions.

“To mourn adversity multiplies the misfortune. It is not hypocrisy to rejoice in distress: It is obedience.”

—*On the Highroad of Surrender,*
Frances J. Roberts, pg 47

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:8)

Salt & Light

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

We usually look at these scriptures as referring to ‘carnal’ Christians—those who are no longer practicing what we personally would consider Christian disciplines, but let’s take a different look at what these verses could also be teaching. We are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” This means we are to influence the whole world; those outside of our churches, as well as outside the specific area around our churches or homes that we feel responsible for. In fact, the broader our influence becomes the more of this world is influenced by the life of Christ within us.

Permit me to share a story that started to open my eyes from the way I was initially taught. Richard and I started and ran a Christian Community Center in Holton, MI for just over ten years. We did anything and everything imaginable out of that building. The Lord gave us some very creative ideas, but most of our projects would still be categorized as community outreach from an evangelical perspective. There certainly wasn’t anything wrong with what we were doing, but then the Lord decided to stretch me—even if it was only baby steps—beyond my normal concepts of “salt” and “light” in this world.

Our youngest daughter was in middle school, and our County Health department started conducting a special class for her grade level. As I looked over the materials that were sent home, I was alarmed that there was a heavy ‘new-age’ flavor. As soon as I picked up on this spirit, I went to Richard and told him we were going to have to excuse our daughter from this class due to our religious convictions. Much to my chagrin, Richard responded with, “No, you are going to have to attend this class every week so you can have a spiritual influence over what is going on.” This was the last thing I wanted to add to my schedule!

Only out of obedience to Richard did I attend each class, but from the very first time I attended the class, the Spirit of God came in with me. The whole atmosphere changed and you would have thought this was a health program from a Christian prospective! At Christmas time, I was asked by the teacher what Christmas meant to me, and again at Easter. I was asked to hug and pray for girls who came into the class with such emotional pain that only God could help them. I actually became the ‘unofficial’ class chaplain. By the time the class ended, the facilitator and I had great respect for one another. All I did was bring the Holy Spirit into a different environment and God did the rest. This is what the Lord is asking all of us to be willing to do.

Since those baby steps many years ago, the Lord has led Richard and me to ministries that teach the different mountains—or sectors of society. There are variations differing from teacher to teacher, but the principle is the same. The seven main sectors we use are Government, Education, Family, Religion, Entertainment, Business, and

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Media. Very few of these areas would have ever been in the scope of my definition of “ministry” for the first half of my life. We were always willing to go from the church to any place to minister, but we would have never considered a Christian as having a ‘calling’ to a ‘secular’ position in any other sector but the Religion sector of society (which includes any institution ran by Christians).

Due to traditional thinking, we fell short of inspiring a generation to prepare for the sectors of society that were contrary to our ‘norm.’ This mindset left many of our children without the education and skills to be highly influential Christians in every sector of society—pure, powerful, “salt” and “light” who would influence the world around them rather than be destroyed by it. We avoided these other areas because of the mindset that we could not be in the world and not of it. We underestimated the power of God to keep us in any place where He would lead us. We also underestimated what God could do through totally yielded vessels in the right place at the right time (like the Old Testament overcomers). The more influential and far reaching a position is, the more powerful our “salt” and “light” will be.

We removed much of our influence from sectors where we could have had great influence for righteousness sake, and in so doing we helped to create the world we now live in. This mindset led to some of us having to repent from ways we may have thought were right but what might not have been exactly the Father’s heart for us or our children.

God’s Answer to Repentance

Then if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. (II Chronicles 7:14 NLT)

This often quoted verse contains a powerful promise. If we, God’s people, will repent of both sins of omission as well as commission, then God will forgive us and restore or heal our land. There is nothing He cannot restore, in His time and in His way.

We do not know the time of the second coming of Christ, but one thing we can be sure of, we are to be faithful to be about our Father’s business until that time. Let us be diligent to affect our society in every way we can. Even if His coming is tomorrow, I think we will all want to hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21 NLT).

“The great thing if one can is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one’s ‘own’ or ‘real’ life. The truth is, of course, that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one’s real life—the life God is sending one, day by day; what one call’s ‘real life’ is a phantom of one’s own imagination.”

—C. S. Lewis



Cabo is Coming Back

I want to thank all of you who have been praying for Los Cabos during the Covid-19 shutdown. In our August blog, I asked for specific prayer for the lengthy continuation of the extreme shutdown and the resulting requirements in the Municipality of Los Cabos. Unbeknownst to her, a Mexican friend, who watches the world and local news closely, happened to recently note that it seemed as if our governor had completely changed his dialogue in regards to the prospect of Baja California Sur opening up in time to be prepared for the tourist season—which is our main

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Cabo is Coming Back, continued...

source of income. In Los Cabos, we don't have much agricultural activity in our deserts and on our rocks, nor do we have much room for industry. Our friend went on to say that it wasn't just his words, but his whole attitude that had completely changed. I gave God glory and told her how we had been praying. Praise God, Who does what only He can do!

In August, just a handful of restaurants and hotels agreed with the Tourist Association to pay the price and go through the training to be certified in order to open. By September, the mid-sized restaurants and some of the smaller hotels were also prepared. At the time of this blog, we are still at only 40 percent occupancy, but the news around town is that Cabo will be able to open by the first of October in time to prepare for our high season. The tourist association reported that 60 percent of our hotel space is already booked for October!

Another interesting note from our August request for prayer centers on Pastor Carlos. At the same time that I was being impressed to pray regarding the slip in the morale of the Cristo es el Camino flock from months of shutdown and from a lack of refreshing from corporate worship, Pastor Carlos also picked up the emotional struggle his people were dealing with.

They did some rearranging to include more people in one location for all three of their weekly services. With their What's App connection capability, they not only continued to send photos in order to see each other, but they also began to report as to how many were in attendance, so that Pastor Carlos could make sure they kept within their 40 percent capacity. With more space, they were also able to invite the neighbors around them, as well as make sure the elderly, single adults, or those who were struggling emotionally would have a larger group of fellowship available to them.

While churches in Baja California Sur were allowed to start meeting again the first week in September, the Covid-19 guidelines at 40 percent occupancy and stringent procedures remain. Because of this, Pastor Carlos made the decision to continue as they are. The cost and logistics of him opening his churches and 'missions' within the guidelines have kept them from going back to 'church as usual,' but the expansions they have been able to make have been an answer to prayer and a refreshing for the people.

In our August blog, I also reported Cabo Church's reopening. There was, however, a mix up with the permits that were issued for reopening. Within days of that one service, Pastor Michael received notification from our governor stating that whether churches had a permit or not, they were not allowed to begin meeting. We were finally able to officially open up again on September 6 at 40 percent occupancy, and what a celebration that was!

I want to praise God for His graciousness towards us in Los Cabos and His plans for the spiritual awakening of our city. The necessary world-wide shaking, which God has allowed to awaken His church and show the world their desperate need for Him, has not changed His plans for us.

Thank you for the prayers!

Our Passion - Jesus Christ!

Our Mission - Bringing the Body of Christ together for the transformation of Los Cabos, MX!



New Life Outreach is a Christian, non-profit organization based out of Holton, MI (USA), with current operations in Los Cabos, MX. Co-directors Richard and Rhonda Mead are ordained ministers with Bethany Bible Training Center (formerly Pinecrest Bible Training Center of Salisbury Center, N.Y.). You may know Rhonda from the TCT Network, where she has appeared on "Ask the Pastor" for more than 19 years. Along with being seasoned ministers and Bible teachers, Richard and Rhonda have great confidence in the power of God for healing, deliverance and total transformation in the lives of believers.

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