

Welcome! Welcome to the fourth edition of our 2017 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.

Delivered & Free

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
—Philippians 2:12-13

Many Christians do not understand the concept of salvation. “Salvation” (the Greek word is *soteria*) is a misnomer to most Christians, for “salvation” means “a complete deliverance” and encompasses far more than regeneration.¹ Too many Christians are content being a new creation in Christ Jesus, knowing they will be with the Lord upon their death or His second coming, and—sadly enough—are satisfied with going through the motions of life on this earth, waiting for their exit.

Part of the problem with the concept of working out our own salvation can be a misunderstanding of how we—as humans—are designed. Man is a tripartite being—spirit, soul and body (I Thessalonians 5:23). When we are born again, we receive a new nature—the nature of Christ, in exchange for our old nature. At the same moment in time, our human spirit is made alive by the Holy Spirit. Our soul, which is made up of our mind, will, and emotions must continually be renewed.

Most sincere Christians have spiritual disciplines that are designed towards spiritual growth into Christ-likeness. Examples of these are church attendance; bible reading, meditation and memorization; and times of prayer and communion with God. Nonetheless, through many years of ministry, I have repeatedly seen a need for spiritual healing from events in our past that continue to affect our “salvation.” A large part of the Body of Christ remains weak, never pressing towards the mark (Philippians 3:13-14) of “complete deliverance.” There seems to be a lack of knowledge of and/or recognition for the need for the application of the finished work of Jesus Christ to be applied to the “inner man.”

Since it is the “inner man” that can easily remain affected by events in our past or remain wounded by sin passed on from prior generations (Numbers 14:18), the common term used for this type of ministry is “inner healing.” There is a gross misuse of this term in psychic circles, but this should not be surprising since the devil is not the Creator of things, but the one who deceives as an “angel of light” (II Corinthians 11:14-15).

John and Paula Sanford are the founders of their ministry, Elijah House, Inc. I have found them to offer the best definition of “inner healing” I have ever heard. John says, “Inner Healing is actually a misnomer. It was first called “the healing of memories,” which was even more incorrect. What it truly is and should be called is “prayer and counsel for sanctification and transformation.” It is not merely a way to restore hurting people, though it does that. It is a ministry within the Body of Christ to enable believers to come to more effective and continual death on

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His Leading 4th Quarter, 2017

Delivered & Free, Continued...

the cross, and resurrection into the fullness of life in Christ.”²

(John and Paula Sanford were among the early pioneers of inner healing. Richard and I were greatly blessed to attend one of their seminars—nearly thirty years ago—in New Albany, Indiana. Their depth of knowledge—along with the sincerity of their walk and teaching—continue to make their books some of my favorite resources for ministry.)

Christ’s death on the cross was, and continues to be, the source of power for the healing of broken hearts. Christ, Himself, declared this to be one of His main ministries.

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at Liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” —Luke 4:18-19

Who Needs Healing for Their Inner Man? Let me share just a few possible answers:

- If you are not consciously aware of the Lord having healed you in your inner man, there is a good chance there is more He would like to do for you. Realistically, no one goes through life without receiving emotional pain or mental anguish that doesn’t seem to go away. I’m not suggesting you look for trouble, but I would recommend spending some time alone with God, asking Him if a need for healing remains. The price for the healing of your inner man was paid for through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, but—similar to salvation—does not take effect until applied through prayer, by faith.
- Does your life have unexplainable patterns of failure, such as repeated failed marriages, the inability to keep and advance in employment, the inability to prosper financially or other such pattern that doesn’t seem to make sense? Take note of what keeps happening in your life no matter how determined you are to change.
- Do you have continual emotional highs and lows even though you are a mature Christian? Do you struggle or have you been diagnosed with emotional or mental illness? If so, you definitely need healing of your inner man.
- Do you have complete lapses of memory of sizeable proportion in your life? Do you often have unexplainable emotional pain triggered by common circumstances? Have you had dreams or visions of disturbing episodes that you have no memory of ever being involved in?
- Do you suffer from any addiction; whether drugs, alcohol, eating disorders, people pleasing, etc.? What is it that you never seem to get victory over?
- Is there any area of fleshly behavior in your Christian walk that you have not been able to overcome, even after an extended period of time?

The areas I’ve listed above are just a few possibilities of behavioral patterns that might indicate the need for prayer for brokenness of the inner man. Recognizing the need for such healing should be a natural part of the pathway to spiritual maturity for all believers. As we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, the Lord—Who began His work in us at regeneration, will continue to perfect (mature) us until our salvation is complete—spirit, soul and body.

Until then, don’t forget the Sanford’s definition of “inner healing.” Actually, it is nothing more than “prayer and counsel for sanctification and transformation.” In the fifth chapter of his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul stated the intended end for every child of God.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. —1 Thessalonians 5:23

May we determine in our hearts not to waste one facet of what God provided for us through the death of His Son. Since Jesus paid such a great price and lovingly gave such an amazing gift, which included the power for the healing of our inner man, how can we ignore it?

¹Kelley Varner, *The Time of the Messiah*, page 20.

²John & Mark Sanford, *A Comprehensive Guide to Deliverance and Inner Healing*, page 18

God is in Control

At the end of March of this year, we issued a “Prayer Alert” for the escalating “drug war” in Los Cabos; followed by a powerful praise report in our ‘blog’ on June 27. Then, on August 6, there was a significant act of violence in one of our oldest and most prestigious resorts - Palmilla. Gunmen opened fire on what appeared to be a local family gathering on a crowded beach on a Sunday afternoon. Three people were killed and two were wounded. Since the beach was crowded—with tourists as well as locals—the news went viral. On that same day, there were other shootings in the neighborhoods where gang members are known to live. These events immediately led to the United States Government issuing a travel advisory to Los Cabos—one of the few Mexican tourist areas that had not previously been on that list.

I have been mulling over the need for comment on these incidents for some time, but an article I just got around to reading in the local English, bi-monthly newspaper, The Gringo Gazette, spurred me on to write this blog. In no way am I minimizing the loss of life, but I wanted to put what the Lord is doing in Los Cabos in context with these events. The article in The Gringo Gazette explained that a local 17-year-old decided to set up shop in the drug trade himself. He actually advertised on Facebook for “employees” to help him in the endeavor. The existing ‘group’ running this business opened fire on him and his family as a statement against competition. This retaliation happening on the beach of the famous resort was even more effective than just eliminating competition. It caused fear, bad publicity for the resort, and the issuing of a ‘travel advisory’ for Los Cabos. The other shootings, which were on the same day, presumably were related to competition from the same source.

Before I share my thoughts, I wanted to print a ‘word,’ as from the Lord, which one of our faithful prayer supporters sent to us the day after the “Prayer Alert” in March.

I declare that what the enemy is doing has come to the light and the light will dispel the darkness. During this time many will be saved and set free from drugs. Others will pay the price for their freedom, but do not allow the evil to weaken your faith. During this time my wisdom and discernment will direct your path to bring about the promise I have spoken and confirmed to you about my purpose for Los Cabos. My Glory will hover over you as you go into battle. Be strong and courageous my faithful servants. The battle will bring victory and MY Glory will be like a cloud over Los Cabos.

From the very beginning, the Lord has declared that His glory will descend upon Los Cabos, changing the municipality through a dimension of divine power incomprehensible to the natural mind—like His stories we’ve read for years in the bible. As the ‘word’ states, some “will pay the price for their freedom,” but nonetheless, war always consists of attacks and counterattacks. As Richard has often said, “Do you think the devil is going to give us the city?”

We still absolutely believe that at the end of June God orchestrated a change in the second heavens over Los Cabos “against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

When the powers contrary to the will of God on earth are stripped of their backup in the heavenlies, unprecedented change results for the Lord’s side. The Lord does not desire for His people in Los Cabos to co-exist with evil, but His intention is for the Light to drive out the darkness. The implementation of His directives is up to His Body in the earth.

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

Tropical Cyclone Lidia Report

Tropical Cyclone Lidia hit the Los Cabos area last Thursday and Friday. I typically am not reporting local events, as would a daily news report, but we have received several inquiries from our faithful ministry partners; so we put together a ‘slide show’ to help you understand the destruction of this storm and its effect on the area. Although the storm (a cyclone according to the Baja Satellite Weather report) never reached hurricane status, the cyclone sat over the water, funneling the water out onto the land. The storm did support winds of 65 to 70 mph, which drove torrents of water and mud sideways into businesses and homes. The official report as to the magnitude of this flooding stated we received only six inches less rain than Hurricane Harvey in Houston!

The residents in the squatter areas (which are all in arroyos—God-designed run offs from the mountains to the sea and ocean) had many tragedies. The official death count cited seven fatalities, but the count from our friends in the barrios is over 100.

The enormous amount of water carried away houses, belongings and anyone who chose not to evacuate. Cars, semi-trailers, large equipment and everything else imaginable were also carried away—some as far away as the Sea of Cortez at Medano Beach. Lower Caribe was completely washed flat. This coming Saturday, we will be participating with Pastor Carlos’ churches in distributing food and clothing; followed by an onsite, evangelical service in Lower Caribe.

A four-story government housing apartment building—only three-years-old—collapsed on the highland just north of Tierra y Libertad. Fortunately, there were no fatalities in that tragedy. Another high rise government housing building—built by the same company—collapsed in the outskirts of San Jose (both had reportedly poor site preparation and little-to-no building repairs following Hurricane Odile).

All of Pastor Carlos’ churches remained intact, including the church at Tierra y Libertad (purposely built in an arroyo to minister to the people there). Pastor Carlos’ faithful crew had two days’ notice before the storm and stacked up several rows of sand bags. After the storm, the site actually looked better than before since the dust-covered red roof is now red and shiny again. Cabo Church’s Feeding Station in Tierra y Libertad was also totally unaffected by the raging water.

Overall, the water was so deep it went over the bridge over the arroyo on Highway 1 near the soccer stadium where the Carlos Annacondia Crusade was. The force of the flow actually bent the guard rail along the highway and left dirt and debris blocking the highway and retornos (side access roads). The dirt left under the bridge after the water subsided was so deep, even a short adult could not stand upright.

We learned that the ‘apron’ on the arroyo at the ocean actually included the property on which the RIU Palace and Santa Fe are built, the country club, and many small businesses. The new Chevy Dealer had just relocated in the area since Hurricane Odile. One of our neighbors who has lived here many years made a very interesting remark, “Water has a memory.” When the waters come, they take the same route time after time—no matter which business and whose homes have since been built there. On Sunday morning, one quiet, polite soul at Cabo Church, who grew up here, was talking with me and just happened to share that Los Cabos traditionally didn’t have this type of devastation from flooding because everyone knew enough not to build in the arroyos.

The RIU hotels were reportedly filled with four-feet of mud and water, along with many other hotels and businesses. The Chevy Dealership’s new building suffered much damage and their inventory of new cars floated away. The San Jose Airport, being farther from the Sea of Cortez and not in a flood plain, was untouched. CFE (our electric company) was able to start restoring power beginning Saturday



Tropical Cyclone Lidia, Continued...

and there has been plenty of drinking water available due to the short recovery time.

Our own home only had a minimal amount of water blown threw the windows and our dirt road only washed out up near the top (where it does for most rains). We even had power and internet by Saturday afternoon. Walmart opened quickly and Costco was able to open by the beginning of the week.

I would like to wrap up with just a few insights:

- Los Cabos was a small fishing village thirty years ago and the rich and famous landed on a dirt runway to fish in the second best bill-fishing area in the world. The government wisely developed the area with huge, hotels and tourist attractions, which flooded the area with various kinds of revenue. In order to attract a large workforce for these businesses, people from all over Latin America were allowed to live, without cost, in the arroyos. Government housing has since been built, but many people prefer to stay in the “free land.” You can discern the issues involved.
- Large hotels and businesses have been allowed to build on the flood plain area near the beaches and highway (including the Walmart area). The businesses are responsible for their own infrastructure and repair, but it is difficult to be surprised at damage caused by storms such as Lidia in an area that gets its rain from the effects of tropical storms.
- Corruption in government is still one of Mexico’s biggest problems. Many of the after-storm conditions and casualties I’ve reported are the results of very large bribes for building and use permits (or for ignoring the need for a permit altogether), building locations, too few inspections, favoritism in issuing contracts, etc.
- One last point is that Los Cabos suffered a drought lasting approximately nine years (prior to August of 2012). In 2012, the Lord answered the prayers of His people with abundant rain, which has continued since. Many, especially newcomers, either do not know the traditional weather patterns of Los Cabos or have become careless during the drier years. Those who were raised here or have lived here for a long time are not surprised, since storms are the way we receive our needed rains (we do invite you to pray for storms that bring rain—without damage).

Since we know many of you are praying both for us and for the area, please pray for solutions to the insights I’ve shared above from living here for five years, as well as from reading The Mexico Daily News email (in English) on a daily basis.



Amazing Tierra y Libertad Neighborhood “Fair”

We continually tell Pastor Carlos Maciel that he can make something look amazing out of very little. This was certainly the case in the recent Saturday afternoon outreach to the Tierra y Libertad neighborhood. Just the Friday before the event, while we were out on house-to-house visitation, Richard pointed out a relatively bare, wide spot adjacent to the dusty road, telling me this was the “soccer field” where the event would take place. I wasn’t even sure it was large enough for one segment of the event, let only big enough to play soccer in!

As always, by the time we arrived, the setup team had the area looking like a community fair. There were fully staffed information and refreshment tables, a piñata area for the young children, a Spiderman moon walk, and a basketball free throw area for the men. There were chairs set up for the after-dark movie presentation and a canopy area for three sisters who offered free haircuts. Along with all of this, there were gunny sack and human wheel barrel races for the adults later in the day.

One of the sisters who has been greeting visitors at the Tierra y Libertad Church during the weekdays walked around the fair getting the names and contact numbers for the neighbors that gathered. After the evangelical movie, around eight people came to the front in response to an appeal for salvation and several came to church the following day.



San Jose – Physical Transformation

The Los Cabos municipal government has undertaken the huge task of tearing up the entire L-shaped courtyard in downtown San Jose. When we go for the patriotic assembly and marketplace prayer each Monday morning, the scene is changing drastically from week to week. In fact, they are moving faster than any government project we've ever seen—with a deadline of the end of September! This is the time of year when the tourists and snow birds flood the city (and they like it nice).



We immediately joked the renovation of San Jose central was transformation before our very eyes, and there could be a measure of truth to this. Each week the Lord gives us impressions of how to pray for a “new” San Jose. Somedays it has been to cleanse the land from generations of defilement; Pastor Carlos has been deeply impressed to pray for the foundations of the area, including the Delegación (city government building). Altogether, the entire area is being spiritually prepared from the ground up for the future the Lord has in mind for Los Cabos.

We have included a portfolio of photos so those of you who have visited Los Cabos can see the drastic changes taking place. Please pray for the area with us—as the spirit of God moves towards the transformation of Los Cabos—spiritually, as well as physically.

Stepping Stones



Every day in Mexico is an adventure! Recently, the sewer near the front of the church at Tierra y Libertad began to leak. We are not talking a small crack. No, we are talking flood waters that the casual observer could mistake for rain!

Let me tell you – no sewage river is stopping these believers from hearing God's word! Our faithful brother, Luis, built stepping stones from cement blocks so we could “safely” traverse the river and reach the steps of the church.

When nothing stops us from chasing after God, when there are no excuses - only stepping stones and whole-hearted pursuit - then can God begin to truly move on this earth!





Sam and Karen Knapp

Sam and Karen Knapp started coming to Los Cabos long before the little fishing village blossomed into what you now see. Their early start in visiting the area for their business led to what is now multiple trips per year—ministering in local churches as far north as Constitución. Sam and Karen minister around the world with a love for people everywhere. Sam is an evangelist, with Karen tag-teaming in the pulpit with practical teaching. They both move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their ministry is known for notable healings and

personal freedom for those in the audience.

Most recently, they ministered at Pastor Carlos Maciel's mother church, Cristo es el Camino-Lomas del Sol, for the first time. I would like to relate two extra special testimonies of changed lives from that night. The first testimony is that of Pastor Carlos' sister. She and her two young children had to flee from their hometown due to extremely dangerous conditions (until her husband could relocate the family). Richard and I were blessed to spend much time with the family and have become very fond of them; not only because they are relatives of Pastor Carlos, but also because of her Christian character and faithful service. She and her children went on visitation in Tierra y Libertad with us for many weeks. Although she doesn't actually speak English, she had been around English enough that she could understand my Spanish—even when I wasn't right on. The standing joke was she translated my Spanish with Spanish for the rest of the evangelism team.

Shortly after we met, she came down with severe abdominal pain and had to be taken to the hospital. She was soon sent home, but had recurring similar symptoms. The night that Sam and Karen ministered, the Lord miraculously delivered her from a lifetime of chronic illness. From what Pastor Carlos later said, she had suffered from frequent infirmity since she was a young child. By the time the night was over, she had been transformed; she went from having a tired, painful look on her face, to being able to relax while smiling from ear to ear.

The second testimony is equally amazing! We had arranged for a translator for Sam and Karen as they spoke at Pastor Carlos' church, but there was only one translator for ministry time. Richard had heard one young man speak excellent English, so presuming he was one of Pastor Carlos' men, he asked the young man to translate for Karen. Since the ministry time was powerful, this young man was greatly exposed to the power of God that night. When the ministry time was over, one of the sisters from the church asked for prayer for this young man for salvation. Since he had translated with all his heart, he had looked like a believer, so Richard asked the sister why she thought he didn't have a personal relationship with the Lord. Her reply revealed another wonder worked by God: the young man had just come into town and was renting one of her rooms. She clearly knew he had not accepted the Lord and invited him for the first time that night to church—he just happened to be fluent in English. He gladly accepted Jesus as his savior and related how he had originally moved to Los Cabos to work in a town known for its night life, but that his purpose for living in Los Cabos had now changed.

We want to give a big “thank-you” to the faithfulness of God, to Sam and Karen Knapp for their ministry, as well to our dear brother, Pastor Carlos Maciel, for his openness in sharing his pulpit. Praise be to God, Who transforms lives, cities and even nations!



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.

www.newlifeoutreach.us

4379 Holton-Whitehall Rd. - Holton, MI 49425

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