

January 2021

His Leading



Welcome! Welcome to the first edition of our 2021 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 is the Lord About to Do?

Near the end of December 2020, I was participating in a church prayer group. As I sat there setting my mind on the Lord, the Lord spoke the following powerful words to my heart: “Rejoice in what I’m about to do for you!” Since these words didn’t fit into the prayer topic of the moment, I waited with the words reverberating in my mind until there was an opening where they could be shared and—as I did—the Lord gave me several different ways the word could be applied. By the time I was done sharing different applications of the word, it was almost as if, for whatever individual situation any of the participants in the prayer meeting were trusting the Lord for, they could rejoice ahead of time for what the Lord was about to do for them. There are many scriptures that give us great hope in the fact that the Lord is always working on our behalf—behind the scenes—until ‘suddenly’ we see with our own eyes what He has been doing all along. One of my favorite scriptures is Isaiah 64:4:

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, *what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.* (Isaiah 64:4 KJV, *author’s emphasis*)

The King James Version of the Bible typically is not my favorite for teaching, but this version more closely represents the meaning of this verse in the original Hebrew. Please notice that God “hath prepared,” as in it is already accomplished; for those who have the expectation that God is surely working on their behalf. In fact, the literal meaning from the Hebrew text is that ‘God worketh for him who waiteth for Him.’ The important factor that you don’t want to miss is that God always responds to childlike faith. Because childlike faith knows that their Heavenly Father starts working on their behalf in answer to the cry of their heart from the moment the burden was given to Him. If we have childlike expectation, we can know that He always ‘worketh’ for us while we ‘waiteth’ for Him!

continued...

New Life Outreach



Rejoice Now, for the Coming Harvest of Souls

What the Lord is about to do, is to usher in a great harvest of souls, and we can rejoice now because the Lord Himself has been working behind the scenes, and will continue to work in order to bring this to pass.

There have been many books, articles, and sermons, all written and expounding on what this last days visitation of the Holy Spirit will look like, but for this article, I would like to go back to 1912 with a vision received by Ivan Q. Spencer, founder of Elim Bible Institute and Elim Fellowship. The vision that God gave him at that time so gripped his heart that the many spiritual experiences of his life never satisfied the longing in his heart compared to what he saw in his vision in 1912. Ivan saw spirit-filled people scattered throughout the world. The purpose for this “world-wide diffusion,¹ was for these powerful believers to intercede for “greater works” (John 14:12) for the people in their geographic areas. Prayer such as this is one of the main assignments the Lord has given Richard and me for the Municipality of Los Cabos.

Jumping ahead from 1912 to 1968-1969; Ivan Q. Spencer shared in his devotional, *Daily Seedlings*, that even though in his lifetime he had seen several different powerful movements of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ, they all paled in comparison to the vision of the end time revival he saw in 1912. All he could say was that the coming visitation would be “gloriously wonderful and beyond anything we could imagine.”²

What Is God Requiring of Us?

With the knowledge of the days in which we live, what is God requiring of us? First of all, it is important not to get caught up in what we expect these days to look like. What is coming is beyond anything we have ever seen and beyond our power to control or to bring to pass. Ivan’s heart’s cry was that, “Man must come to the end of himself in these days—in his struggle, in his efforts, in his programs, in his ways—so that God really can have His way. He’s stripping you and me. He’s making us weak. He’s emptying us. The old orders and the old ways somehow do not seem to produce anymore. It is as if we’re being thrown abjectly upon Him.”³

What God is requiring of us was written by the Apostle Paul as a description of what the Lord was requiring of Him. He wrote in the first person tense, I must “press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus...I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14). The “upward call of God in Christ Jesus” is to become progressively conformed to His image. Don’t worry about whether you think this is possible or impossible. If it is recorded in the Bible as being the goal for the Apostle Paul, the same grace—God’s ability for our inability—is available to us.

It’s Time for Fine Tuning

Some of you reading this article may have known the Lord for many years, but may have responded very little to the sermons you heard, the words that you read in the Bible, or to caring exhortations from other believers. It is time to grow up in the Lord. It is time to quit comparing yourself to other Christians in an attempt to excuse your lack of spiritual growth, or to just be stuck in a “woe is me” mentality. It is time to exchange your self-centered life for the Christ-centered life you will need for maturity. If you will seek the Lord with all your heart, your soul, and your mind, the fine-tuning of the word of God and the Holy Spirit will change you from the inside out.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy (Jude 1:24)

The same grace—the power and desire to do God’s will—that first brought you to the Lord can bring you to spiritual maturity. His grace can even cause you to stand strong, with no “stumbling.” A.B Simpson, founder of the Christian Missionary Alliance, wrote in the late 1800’s: “God wants us to walk so steadily that there will not even

continued...

What is the Lord About to Do?, continued...

be a quiver in the line of His regiments as they face the foe. It is the little stumblings of life that most discourage and hinder us, and most of these stumblings are over trivialities. Satan would much rather knock us down with a feather than with a gun. It is much more to his honor and delight to defeat a child of God by some insignificant matter than by some great temptation.”⁴

Scripture warns us that it is “the little foxes that are ruining the vineyards” (Song of Solomon 2:15) and that as “dead flies make a perfumer’s oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor” (Ecclesiastes 10:1). Both of these pictures warn us of the danger of leaving those areas of our lives that we can ‘comfortably’ live with intact, rather than bringing them before the Lord and asking for His grace to remove them from our lives.

Fine tuning will be even more crucial in the days before us. It will be important that “you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.” For even as the glory of Lord will cover the earth (Habakkuk 2:14), the counter attack from the enemy of our souls will increase viciously as he knows that his time is running short; and he knows where our weaknesses lie—in the little things we thought we could live with. The only way to live in the days ahead is with “clean hands and a pure heart,” to not have “lifted up” our “soul to falsehood” and to not have “sworn deceitfully” (Psalm 24:4).

Now is the time for fine tuning!

¹ *Daily Seedlings*, Ivan Q. Spencer, Editor’s Note, pg IX

² *Daily Seedlings*, Ivan Q. Spencer, pg. 342, para 1

³ *Daily Seedlings*, Ivan Q. Spencer, pg 342, para 3

⁴ *Days of Heaven on Earth*, A.B. Simpson, Jan. 7

“Living in the strength of the Lord is not for my success or well-being, but so that I will glorify Christ by living in His power.”

–David McCasland, Our Daily Bread

The Birth of a Vision: Transform Mexico With Neil & Lee Woollocott from Australia



Neil and Lee Woollocott first came to Cabos San Lucas in November of 2017 as the result of a friendship that God initiated at the Transform Our World Annual Conference in 2015 (you can check them out from previous blogs). Besides being a mature, seasoned Christian, Neil is a businessman and a visionary. From the first time he set foot in Los Cabos, he began to ask us what our vision for Los Cabos was and what he and Lee could do to aid in that vision.

One of the first ministries that Neil introduced us to on their first visit was Transform Cambodia (you can see the mighty way God has used this ministry concept in Cambodia at: <https://www.transformcambodia.com/>).

Richard and I were deeply touched with how Transform Cambodia was literally transforming the lives of the poorest of poor through a powerful relationship with Jesus Christ, along with the education and encouragement to be the future leaders of their country.

Upon flying back to Australia, Neil never dropped the vision of how the Cambodia prototype might work in Los Cabos. He maintained his commitment to do all he could in Australia to obtain funding for the beginning of a foundation that would establish and run a similar program in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. After all, Transform Cambodia was originally started by just two Christian businessmen in Australia, who established, funded, and designed the foundation that continues to fund the multiple centers that now exist in Cambodia, with or without them.

continued...

The Birth of a Vision, continued...



Since that first trip to Los Cabos, Neil has faithfully been in contact with Richard and me, including face-to-face telemeetings where we continue to discuss each other's progress in our respective countries. Not too long ago, during one of our conversations, I happened to mention something that caught Neil's attention and he asked me to follow up on it. I wasn't sure it was a 'God idea,' but it certainly wouldn't hurt to explore it. This idea led to the meeting we are reporting on in this blog.

On Saturday, October 17, Pastor Carlos and his family invited the families of two of his assistant pastors to meet with Richard and me to present the prototype of Transform Cambodia with the group. Ever since they had heard about the possibility of an affordable Christian school/leadership academy in Los Cabos, their interest had been peaked. Apparently, they had been talking with Pastor Carlos for some time prior to this.

I do want you to know that as of the writing of this blog, we have no commitment of funding for this program, but the leg work has begun. Before the end of that night, the group had identified which of them had the contacts and experience to obtain the financial information, as well as to research the legal processes that would be necessary for the initial stage of the vision—down to the last detail. Richard and I were amazed, as well as impressed.

We will be tweaking the prototype of Transform Cambodia for our area, but the end result will be children and their families coming to Christ, children receiving a Christ-centered, quality education, and children being nurtured and prepared in order to be future leaders in their city, states and country. As Pastor Carlos, Richard and I thought about the name of this initiative (at Neil's request), all three of us ruled out Transform Los Cabos because the vision was becoming larger. The start of this 'academy' in Cabo San Lucas could possibly be a prototype for all of Mexico—one step at a time. For that reason, Transform

Mexico had officially been birthed!

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child Festi-niños 2021, Covid-19 Style



Just to give you a little background; Cabo San Lucas had not been receiving Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes until 2014 when Hurricane Odile destroyed much of Cabo San Lucas. The pastors' group at La Paz (our capital city two hours northeast of us) had been working with the program for some time, and graciously chose to give their shoeboxes to Cabo San Lucas that year because of the destruction our city experienced.

Since that first time in 2014, Cristo es el Camino has been receiving shoeboxes—a major reason being that Pastor Carlos has made sure he fulfills all of the requirements for the program. A Spanish tract with the plan of salvation is included in each box. The distributing church must send a leader or teacher from the church to the home of every child who received a box. They must speak with the family and try to introduce them to the reality of what Jesus Christ did for them. The family of the child must also agree to allow their child to attend the twelve weeks of training classes on Christian discipleship at the participating church. This is an amazing program, with great results—one that reaches around the world!

Due to Covid-19, Pastor Carlos' wife Janet, daughter Paolo, and the rest of their willing leaders and workers divided the 'festivals' (parties) of

food, fun, and the distribution of boxes to five different churches/missions, including Valle del Cabo and Tierra y Libertad, which had to host two festivals in the same day to include all of the children (with Covid-19 spacing). Janet said there were 80 children between the two fiestas at Tierra y Libertad, 60 in attendance between the two fiestas at Valle del Cabo, as well as the festivities at Lomas del Sol, Caribe and Fuentes de Bella Vista. Due to the number of boxes that were shipped to us, tickets had to be distributed to parents and grandparents at the 6:00 services the Sunday before for their children and/or grandchildren. In the end, the crowd was huge and many lives were and will continue to be touched.

Our church family at Cristo es el Camino never ceases to amaze Richard and me at how fast and efficient they can set up a successful outreach, celebration, or 'crusade;' and we've been watching them now for eleven years! This year's Operation Christmas Child, during Covid-19, was no exception. It was another example of their teamwork, willingness, and flexibility—due to their love for the Lord and each other.



continued...

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child, continued...



Cabo Marina—Evangelism

Since we first set foot in Los Cabos in 2010, Richard has greatly enjoyed striking up conversations with the many ‘hawkers’ that flood the Marina boardwalk (especially in high season: October 15-April 15). Richard loves bantering with them because he can usually turn the conversation to his advantage and begin to challenge them about their lifestyles. Since he is patient and persistent, many wear down and begin to talk to him about their choices in life.



Along with taking care of things at home, I spend many hours in front of my computer; leaving little time to spend extended amounts of time with Richard at the marina. It has always been fun when we go together but with Richard’s gift mix, this type of ministry is really his forte. This brings us to Richard’s newest outreach; pastoral-type care for the flood of—mainly men—who come from all over Mexico to work in sales in Los Cabos during high season. Many of these men have been deported from the United States, speak English, and came to Los Cabos to make a little more than the average wage elsewhere in Mexico.

Richard started going to the marina every Monday or Tuesday so the men would look forward to seeing him—and they do. He wears the same color shirt and shorts so they see him coming. He carries bi-lingual New Testaments and tracts in a shoulder bag. The results were instantly amazing. The day that I went with him to take the photos for this blog, one recently-deported young man was waiting for Richard to come so that he could ask for prayer for a sister who had recently been diagnosed with Covid. Up and down the marina men were waving ahead of us to say hello to Richard and to talk with him.

Richard has had several accounts of how God has moved in the hearts of different men every time he goes. One such story includes a man from a very rough part of town, who was an artist. Thieves had robbed his lean-to and took his meager belongings, including his easel. The man rode a bike to the marina every day in order to sell paintings to the tourists, so Richard designed an easel that folded up and could be carried on the man’s shoulder. Another man, who is interested in ‘spiritual’ things other than a relationship with Jesus Christ, has asked to go to the barrios with Richard on a work project.

The name of the elderly lady in the photos is Juanita Bonita and we have prayed over her and rented her water taxis for several years. When we asked this ‘God-fearing’ lady if we could pray for her on the day I was at the marina for the photo shoot, I was led by the Lord to place my hand on her upper abdomen. I really didn’t know why until we were done praying. When I asked her if there was something wrong with her stomach she told us she had three hernias in her upper abdomen and was waiting for surgery. We have not yet heard the report of our prayer session with her.

God is so faithful to give His children creative ideas to reach people in their spheres of influence. Richard’s marina ministry is just one idea of how God would have each of us minister to the world around us—one person at a time. We pray that the

Lord will give each of you a personalized plan to touch the many people around you with the love of Jesus Christ.

Marketplace Ministry 'Secular' Work With the Heart of God



We originally came to Cabo San Lucas ten years ago to attend a conference held by Lance Wallnau. Lance, along with others, has taught about the seven mountains—or the seven areas of society that influence a nation—for many years. A vital part of the seven mountain teaching is the biblical mandate for serious believers to prepare themselves and their children for work in what we have traditionally called “secular” jobs; in order to be used by God as salt and light in the sector of society God has laid on their hearts.

We have also attended several Transform Our World Conferences led by Ed Siloso. These conferences are a gathering

of believers from around the world that are being used by God in amazing, if not miraculous, ways—in their divine assignments, cities, and countries. Ed teaches the principle of “marketplace ministry.” Basically, marketplace ministry is operating in your sphere of influence, similar to how a pastor with a shepherd’s heart would treat the people in his/her care. The more influential the position, the larger the effects of this type of ministry will be. Nonetheless, stories of amazing results reach down to the most menial jobs—such as Namaan’s servant girl who implored her master’s wife to ask him to go to the prophet Elisha to be healed of leprosy (II Kings 5:1-19); or a modern day testimony of the humble lady who made a living pushing an ice cream cart in Phuket, Thailand. She prayed over the ice cream treats every day as she placed them in her cart; and the rest of her story tells of the snowball effect that resulted in amazing miracles because of her faithfulness to the Lord in humble surroundings.

Fisherman’s Landing Restaurant

This brings us to a Christian brother who is a vibrant example of a marketplace minister, and just happens to be Pastor Carlos Maciel’s brother-in-law. We mentioned Victor Felipe briefly in our blog on Neil and Lee Woollocott from January of this year, but the story is still being told. January of 2020 was our first visit to Fisherman’s Landing, where Victor is the Operational Manager of a restaurant that is built on part of the Cabo San Lucas Marina boardwalk. As Victor shared his heart with all of us, it was clear that Victor—who had never been introduced to marketplace ministry—was already ministering to his employees with the heart of God. He encourages each one of his employees individually and helps to train them in excellence. He goes out of his way for them to excel at their positions, as well as doing what he can to enable them to keep working. He prays with them, allows them to share personal problems that might affect their work, and has a God-given gift of encouragement that he faithfully uses to give hope of a better tomorrow to his employees. He creates an environment that most people would want to work in. Victor’s story doesn’t end here, though.



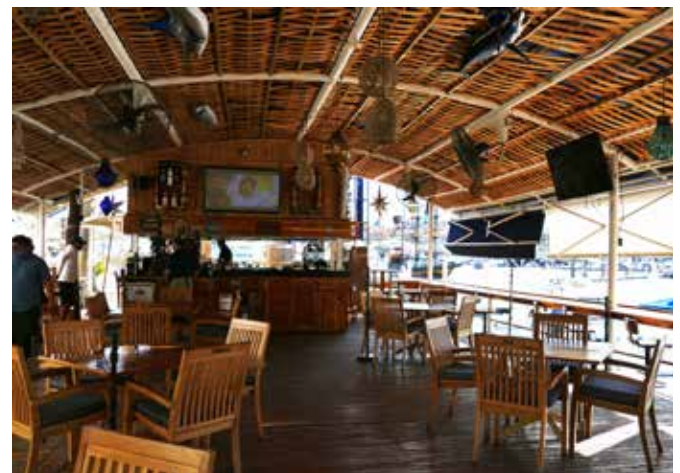
continued...

Marketplace Ministry, continued...

The newest change of circumstances includes the man who owned Fisherman's Landing, as well as several other restaurants in other cities, just died of cancer this summer. The man's wife recently came to Cabo San Lucas to meet with Victor. She knows Fisherman's Landing was the money maker for the family because of Victor, and is now asking him to help her make the family's other restaurants profitable—the favor of God is definitely upon Victor and he is currently praying with his wife on what he might be able to do.

Richard has been stopping to pray with and encourage Victor as he makes his weekly rounds with the men who try to make a living on the boardwalk, but for some time I was burdened with the need for the two of us to pray for cleansing over the Fisherman's Landing facilities, as well as the location itself. Just recently we were able to schedule this meeting with Victor.

This now brings us back to the rest of the story... In January's blog I mentioned a "very significant word of knowledge" (I Corinthians 12:8) that was shared by one of our group with Victor, and was immediately confirmed by Victor himself. In the natural, there now is a probability of seeing this word and confirmation come to pass, but as Richard and I just recently prayed over the restaurant, the Lord spoke another word of knowledge to my heart as an encouragement to Victor. Please pray for Victor, his wife and daughter, and Fisherman's Landing; and for the fulfillment of God's intent and purposes for Victor that He has revealed so far.



A Blessing: Guillermo & Belem's Wedding



During the first part of December, Pastor Alberto Esparza sent us an email asking if Richard would honor his family by officiating the wedding of his daughter, Belem Alejandra Esparza Mendoza, and Guillermo Alfredo Martin Jacobo. This wedding was Richard's first in Mexico, and was the wedding of a dear family we have known for many years.

Belem is one of the daughters of Pastor Alberto, who we have been friends with since we taught with him at the Friday night/Saturday morning Pastors' classes in 2012. Belem and her brother, Juan, were also in either Richard's or my classes when we volunteered at

Universidad Libertad (Liberty University, a K-12 day school). The oldest daughter, Sara, worked at the school while we were there, and I taught private English lessons to Sara. It was a great joy to be a part of this event and a precious reunion with all of the family.

The wedding was held at an 'event center' in San Jose del Cabo. Events in centers such as this are very common in Mexico since few homes are large enough to even have birthday parties with all of the extended family, let alone a wedding. It was an outdoor, garden setting and was actually one of the most beautiful settings we have seen.

I did want to mention a very unique tradition, which is slightly different than ours in the United States. You will notice two pictures, one with the bride standing on a stool and another with the groom on the stool. The single ladies dance in a circle first and then the single men. They are actually dancing to contemporary Christian music in Spanish. The Mexican rhythm of the music actually lends itself to a fun, wholesome event. At the right time, the bride throws her bouquet over her shoulder. The groom, likewise, throws his boutonniere over his shoulder to the single men in his circle.

Enjoy the pictures. It was a lovely evening with a precious Christian family!



continued...

Guillermo & Belem's Wedding, continued...



Christmas Family 2020

One of Our Most Amazing Christmas Family God-Stories

For several years now, the families of two of our daughters have asked for the money that would have been spent on presents for their families to be used to provide a special Christmas surprise for one of the neediest families in Los Cabos. This year, Pastor Carlos chose a family with a very special story, but didn't actually fill us in with the details until after our day of shopping and dinner.

The family of Luis Martinez Estrada was chosen. They had been in Cabo San Lucas for three years and had attended a church in mainland Mexico, where Luis had left a good job at a well-known hotel chain, to flee the area from fear of the escalating cartel activity (this actually is one of the main reasons for the overflow in our "squatter" areas). After arriving in Los Cabos, they had not connected with or attended a church until a unique "divine appointment."

At the beginning of the time when there were few jobs in Los Cabos due to the Covid-19 shutdown and consequent lack of tourism, Pastor Carlos saw Luis walking along one of the dirt roads in the Colonia of Tierra y Libertad. Luis accepted the offer of a ride and Pastor Carlos asked how his family was doing for food. Pastor Carlos then offered work to Luis on one of the Cristo es el Camino Church's work projects. From that point on, the church family began to disciple Luis, his wife, Hernestina, and their four children; Cristan, Madelyne, Erik and Maleny. Over time, the family began to grow in the Lord and their lifestyle changed, but Luis still did not have regular employment and the family was, and is, very needy.



The family does not speak any English and are not familiar with North American dialect, so we asked for a translator to go with us to help in the many details involved in buying multiple items for a family of six (with a certain dollar amount for each of them). Pastor Carlos was scheduled elsewhere that day, so we asked for his daughter, Paola. Paola was definitely a blessing from God and the nine of us had a great time.



As we went through several stores, the family's need was seen in their choices; shoes, undergarments jeans, skirts for Hernestina, and other very essential items, with only a doll for five-year-old Maleny and a small pencil case for eleven-year-old Erik. Slender Erik actually picked out a belt that could have fit Richard at the first department store we were in because he wanted a belt so badly. We had to assure him that the next store had a children's department and would have a belt that would fit him.

After an afternoon of helping each member of the family spend their part of the money, we headed to one of our favorite restaurants, Campestre (but we didn't think about the fact that they are closed on Saturdays). Our next reasonable place to take them to dinner was Pollo de Oro, where one of the owners stood at their door informing us they were out of chicken and would be closing in one half hour. Finally, we gave up and ended up at our last 'sit-down' but reasonable option, Pizza Nostra. It was quite an eventful day!

But now is 'the rest of the story'—"the amazing God story." Several days after our shopping trip, Pastor Carlos shared the conversation we had not known about when we were out with the family. Just before he had chosen the family to be our Christmas Family, eleven-year-old Erik looked into his mother's eyes and asked if they were going to have any presents to open on Christmas. Hernestina carefully told Erik, "yes," because deep in her heart she was hoping God would provide something for the children. The rest is history; Pastor Carlos chose this precious family without knowing about the conversation between Hernestina and her son, and God showed how much he cares for the "desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4)."

For those of you who have followed our Christmas Family through the years, you might recall the fun pictures of the family members picking out their gifts in the stores. This year I ran into a problem. I had so much fun with Paola and the family that I forgot all about taking pictures until we were seated at Nostra Pizza.

As one last note—the family picture is in front of their home; corrugated steel and scrap wood on the precipice of the drop-off to the arroyo below. This is one of the poorest homes in Los Cabos, but just look at the joy and happiness on the faces of this family!



"God ordains the hard times to allow us to see whether we are worshippers of the good times."

-Fred L. Moore, Zion's Fire

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.

www.newlifeoutreach.us

4379 Holton-Whitehall Rd. - Holton, MI 49425