

Welcome! Welcome to the third edition of our 2019 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.

A Message for the Days Ahead

We face elements of surprise in every single day—some good and some seemingly bad—but God is in control of them all. This is why He inspired the Apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 8:18, to record; “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This is certainly beyond our comprehension, but nothing touches us apart from the lifting of God’s hand.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. –John 16:33

God’s people are suffering from much confusion and indecision because they are not focusing on what He is doing in their lives. If we train ourselves to immediately look to Him when the ‘surprises’ of life happen, He will give us peace and rest. If we will ask our Heavenly Father what to do about the situation that caused the surprise, He will lovingly guide us through even the most tragic of circumstances.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. –Philippians 4:6-7

In the days ahead—more than ever before—we must walk in the ‘way of the Lord.’ To walk in His ways requires an experiential understanding of His ways. This understanding comes from a lifestyle of walking in communion with Him, no matter what circumstances lay before us. Much of the confusion in our lives is a result of not knowing His ways, and His ways are only understood through intimate communion with Him.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. –Ephesians 5:15-17

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A Message for the Days Ahead, Continued...

In this dispensation, God is not micro-managing the world. However—in His love—He always causes “all things” to “work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). There will be times when God directly intervenes in the affairs of men, but His answer to the confused world in which we live is an army of overcomers who will ‘overcome the world’ with the same power with which they are to overcome ‘themselves.’ The problem is, few Christians surrender to the process of dying to ‘themselves’ so that Christ can live through them.¹ The church is waiting for the Lord and He is waiting for us. The revealing of a valiant army of overcomers will precede the physical return of the Lord.

The Urgent Need in the Body of Christ Intimate Communion with God

We cannot possibly cooperate with an all-knowing, all-powerful God unless we know Him intimately. Since His ways, as well as His thoughts, are much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), we can only get to know His ways by becoming His friend. A deep friendship takes much time and effort. The life of Moses is an example of an Old Testament overcomer, of whom it was said:

Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend... –Exodus 33:11

I have been disciplining individuals and small groups into a ‘deeper Christian life’ for over thirty-five years and one of the keys to maintaining an overcoming life is close communion with God. No matter what level of spiritual maturity you are at, there is always more. Please let me challenge you with five disciplines of communion I have taught throughout the years.

1. An increase in your daily time with the Lord: Although we pray, quietly position ourselves before the Lord and use devotional material, one of the main purposes of our daily time with the Lord is to read and study the Bible. A thorough knowledge of the word of God will help you to know God and His ways. If you currently have fifteen minutes with the Lord before your daily activities, try gradually increasing your length of daily time with Him. Be creative and ask the Lord for ideas to help make this happen.

2. Systematic scripture memorization: The Lord often brings His word to our hearts to guide us in His ways. The easiest way for this to become a way of life is to include scripture memorization as a small portion of your daily devotions. Don’t ‘try’ to memorize. Just repeat the verse(s) ten to twenty times during each session and you will be amazed at the results.

3. “Secret Place” time with the Lord: Many years ago I heard a teaching that used this phrase and I’ve stuck with it. A ‘Secret Place’ (the phrase used for a time of prayer in Matthew 6:6) is a time of shutting ourselves away with the Lord; apart from our family and friends. Typically, we will not share the experiences we have during this time with the Lord, except for occasionally sharing for the sake of teaching or testimony.

Our experiences will vary. There will be times when the Holy Spirit ‘draws’² us to leave our normal routine for a special time with Him. He will often prompt us to be with Him at a location other than our homes—such a time is a ‘special date’ with the love of our lives. The Lord may also prompt us to meet with Him at the same time over a period of days or years. These times will often be during the night. One last example could be the testimonies of many who have gone before us; that of preparing a special, private place or chair in their home for the purpose of meeting with the Lord. Whatever your experience is, the main thing is to be faithful to meet with the Lord in the way He is personally leading you.

The purpose of Secret Place time is not usually to pray, but is to spend time in His presence, soaking and waiting on Him. How He responds to you as you “wait” in His presence will vary. As He manifests Himself to you, or even if you feel no tangible presence, time spent in the Secret Place is never wasted.

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A Message for the Days Ahead, Continued...

“He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). We will always be changed into His image by another degree of glory while in the Secret Place; time in the Secret Place shows the Lord our desire for intimacy with Him, and He will respond to our expressed desire by intensifying our hunger to spend time alone with Him.

4. Set your mind on things above—the two-week challenge: If you do not have to think of anything else, set your mind on the things of the Lord. This can be talking with Him, meditating on scripture, or singing spiritual songs; be creative.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. –Colossians 3:1-3

It was around twenty-five years ago when I was first challenged to do this. I thought it sounded fanatical, but in only two weeks it became a way of life. Just remember, overcomers are the ‘special forces’ of Christianity;

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. –Revelation 12:11

*For many are called, but few are chosen. (Few will choose to pay the price.)
–Matthew 22:14, NKJV (my emphasis)*

5. Journaling: Write down the flow of thoughts you receive as you focus your mind on the Lord, and ask Him what He would like to say to you. (The enemy has a counterfeit of this, but the enemy is a copycat and God is the originator of all things.)

Close to twenty-five years ago, the church we attended brought in Mark Virkler for a seminar called “Communion with God.” This seminar increased my ability to hear the Lord from seldom hearing a few words, to hearing sentences and paragraphs, and I have practiced journaling as part of my devotional life ever since.

This is not as easy to describe as the first four disciplines, but several versions of Mark Virkler’s complete seminar are available, free of charge, on YouTube. I do not have the words to tell you how much journaling will enhance your communion with God and your understanding of His ways.

The web address below is a link to the first video of a seminar in Toronto, Canada, which was held in March of 2006. This series of meetings skips from what is labeled as #1 to #3, but please just keep going to session #7. This seminar is labeled as “Communion with God 2006” with Mark Virkler. To begin, please copy and paste this address into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-Jqx9bwlA4&t=34s>

Final Words

I challenge you today to commit to increasing your intimacy and communion with God. In the days ahead, the world around you will need powerful Christians to lead the way in the midst of mass confusion brought on by the enemy. The world needs you, and since God’s plan is to use the Body of Christ in the earth, God needs you, and you will need to hear God’s voice and know His ways like never before! This is your destiny.

¹ See *The Exchanged Life—The Revelation of Jesus Christ in You*, Rhonda J. Mead

² Study the account of the Bridegroom and His beloved in the Song of Solomon

Avanza Sin Tranza One More Step Towards Fulfillment

Following the unexpected results of last year's election for Presidente (Mayor) of the Municipality of Los Cabos, we have been working with a new group of government officials. Over the course of the last year, we have been blessed to be able to introduce both the program and ourselves to the new administration, and we are pleased to announce the Avanza sin Tranza (Thrive without Bribes) program is still moving forward!



The new Director of Education, Juan Mesa, has been eager from the beginning to implement the program, but progress has been a little slower than expected. Nonetheless, Senor Mesa has faithfully moved forward, and we have an exciting progress report.



Just recently, after the Monday morning patriotic assembly in front of the Municipal Palace in San Jose del Cabo, we had a pleasant surprise conversation with Juan. He apologized for the short notice, but invited us to a teacher's training at the San Jose Cultural Center at 9:00 am that morning. We quickly checked with Pastor Carlos, who was with us, and gladly accepted.



There were many teachers present (including principals), and the facilitator was an educator from the SEP (the Mexican Department of Education) office in La Paz. We were really impressed by his presentation and were glad we were there to see the beginning—of what we found out—was a two-day training seminar.



Not too long after the seminar began, La Presidente Armida Castro came in to greet the participating teachers. As I took her photo, I was aware of the fact that she was making sure she looked right at me so I could get a good picture. Then, I suddenly realized the significance of Senor Mesa's invitation to the meeting; Richard, Pastor Carlos and I were sitting among a mix of representatives involved in the programming of our municipality's ninety schools. We were casually introduced to the local teachers and school officials. We were also a part of the news media that ushered in La Presidente Armida.

Later that night, we received an exciting text from Juan Mesa. The administration is ready to go forward with the program at the beginning of our next school year (beginning in mid-August), and—not only that—they are going to start an advertising campaign to kick off community involvement with the implementation of Avanza sin Tranza! It will be great news for the Municipality of Los Cabos and it certainly brings great joy to us!

Thank you all for praying; “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16b NKJV), but please don't stop! The enemy of our souls certainly does not want to see the implementation of Avanza sin Tranza come to pass.

“Spiritual hunger is the foundation of our fellowship and communion with the Lord, and of our growth into spiritual maturity.”

-Wade Taylor, The Secret of the Stairs

Coming Alongside Cabo English Church

Richard and I were called to Los Cabos nine years ago to minister wherever and in whatever capacity the Lord leads—working towards the spiritual transformation of Los Cabos, which will subsequently bring forth tangible change in the natural realm.

As we wait on the Lord for the manifestation of this spiritual visitation, we continue to come alongside several ministries in the Los Cabos area. The practical outworking of what we do spans from helping families, pastors and churches in the barrios to volunteering at Cabo (English) Church. We have also worked with various other Christian ministries, encouraged Christian business men, and have been coming alongside the local government through prayer and programs such as Avanza sin Tranza.

It has been just under seven years since we moved to Los Cabos and Cabo (English) Church has been our church home ever since moving to the area. One of our first assignments was greeting at the door, along with ushering. We were at the door for the Sunday morning service (or services) and the evening service at night for most Sundays for five years. Cabo Church was finally blessed to the point of having enough year-round attendees to be able to train others to join us in greeting and ushering. During that five year period, we gained a new perspective on the ministry of greeting. We now, when not greeting, actually miss the wonderful people we were able to interact with at the front door. It may sound strange, but the interaction at the door was almost like a revolving ‘small group.’

We have also been blessed to be able to minister in prayer at Cabo Church. From the beginning of our arrival in Mexico, I was asked to minister to people with special prayer needs, and several years ago Laura (Pastor Michael’s wife) asked me to support Pastor Michael as he prays for people at the front of the church after the message. Along with our personal prayer times, Richard and I also intercede for the church most Saturday mornings in the church sanctuary; and through the years, have been asked to pray in people for special spiritual needs.



but we thank the Lord for bringing in new, seasoned prayer warriors. For the start this new prayer ministry, Pastor Michael asked me to lead a class to train ‘prayer people,’ and we started our first class at the beginning of this last January. We only have a handful of recruits, but it has been a great joy for me to be developing prayer teams once again.

On Richard’s part, along with what I have already mentioned, he was previously involved in co-leading the men’s group at Cabo Church. He has also been blessed many times with the opportunity to provide “pulpit supply” for Pastor Michael when he and Laura are out of town.

Our goal, as the Lord leads, is to come alongside other ministries and area churches to enable the Body of Christ to be a spiritual influence on the Cabo San Lucas area. Thank you for making that possible through your prayers and support!



Along with what we were already doing in prayer, near the end of last year, Pastor Michael asked if I would head up a ‘prayer ministry.’ I agreed to this, and implemented an outline (I had drawn up around five years before) of five different areas of prayer ministry the church was in need of. Due to the lack of year-round attendees who are gifted and trained in prayer, this will be a process,



2019 Building Projects Update

Our season for building projects in Los Cabos begins in January when Shane and Tracey Crowley fly down to lay as many blocks as possible in the time they are here. When Shane and Tracey fly back to Michigan, Richard takes over from there with the next stage of that year's projects. We have been in Mexico long enough to know it is best to be finished for the calendar year by July—due to the extremely hot, humid weather from July to mid-October.

When Shane and Tracey were here this past winter, they laid block for some very welcomed additions to the churches at Tierra y Libertad and Valle del Cabo. Richard has been working steadily at Tierra y Libertad. For the new bathrooms there, he ran plumbing, connected the plumbing to the sewer system, and ran electrical lines. He was also able to run electrical lines along the new block walls (including to the new classrooms). He installed a new electrical box and connected the service. In addition, he installed windows and doors at both church sites—and to those of you who have seen these two church sites—both have a totally new look.

Since Pastor Carlos is running out of space at Lomas del Sol, he is currently in the process of sending part of the main congregation down to Tierra y Libertad. As we build, Pastor Carlos Maciel and his team bring in the new converts, while continuing to train others into maturity.

We are excited about the progress at both churches and wanted to thank everyone who helped financially, physically or through prayer for the work that was done this year.





“Self is the only prison that can bind the soul.”
-Henry VanDyke, as quoted in Let Go by Fenelon

Lomas del Sol Transforming a Playground & a Community

One of the methods commonly used when transforming an area is to do something as a gift for the community or neighborhood without expecting anything in return. Pastor Carlos Maciel is combining such a community project with a two-day evangelical crusade. His project is in the neighborhood of Lomas del Sol, where his main church (and first church) is still located. This church was also our first building project in Los Cabos in the Spring of 2011.

In Lomas del Sol, there is a playground within a mile of the church. The playground is in need of much repair. We are finding that while money is sometimes provided for a building project, park or playground to be constructed, rarely does anyone plan ahead for the upkeep of the—private or public—building or project. This was certainly the case with this community playground. Pastor Carlos asked the relatively new Assistant Mayor at the Delegacion (government building near the Red Cross) in Cabo San Lucas for permission to clean the park and paint everything that was previously painted before an evangelical crusade.

We do not know how the municipalities' decision came to be, but after Pastor Carlos asked for permission to clean up the park and have a crusade, the city decided to do repairs on the park and have its own community outreach first. As a result of this decision, Pastor Carlos was asked to reschedule his crusade for a later date in order to give the city time to complete the plans. The crusade is now scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 10-11.

We would like to think that the Body of Christ brought transformation to a much neglected area by shining a spotlight on it, or maybe the municipality wanted to help clean it up before the crusade. Either way, the community is being transformed, the people are being blessed, and the crusade will go on!

Pastor Carlos has such a burden for souls. His people have steadily been gearing up for regular outdoor outreaches. They have built their own portable stage and are currently building their own light towers. We partnered with them last summer in helping to buy their own powerful, portable sound system for outdoor programming.

Please remember to pray for the crusade August 10-11 and I'll be sure to share photos and a report of what God did in the Lomas del Sol Community Playground!

The Before Pictures...

Crusade: August 10-11



Continued...

Lomas del Sol, Continued...



The Before Pictures...
Crusade: August 10-11



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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