

March 2023

# His Leading



**Welcome!** Welcome to the first edition of our 2023 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](mailto:info@newlifeoutreach.us) or visit us at [www.newlifeoutreach.us](http://www.newlifeoutreach.us).

## You Only Have One Life to Live

If you are struggling to maintain the fruit of the Spirit in the troubling times in which we live, the answer to being victorious in the ‘tug-of-war’ between the flesh and the Spirit has always been to set our minds on the Lord rather than on the cares and concerns of this world—no matter how crazy things are!

Just remember, regardless of how long it is before you meet Jesus Christ—whether through death or at the time of the ‘last trump’; this life is the last chance you will have to choose to overcome in an imperfect world with imperfect people. The more you choose to overcome, the more you will be conformed to the image of Christ, and the more fruit of the Spirit you will experience.

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

*(Galatians 5:16-17)*

In times, such as we are currently experiencing, there is greater opportunity to overcome; Overcoming being the pathway designed by God for our transformation into the image of Christ while we are still here in these “earthen vessels” (II Corinthians 4:7). The way can be very difficult at times, and our hearts may cry out for relief, but don’t give up. **The level at which you are tried is the level God can trust you at for what He desires to bring forth in your life—both for this life and for eternity.**

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## *New Life Outreach*



*You Only Have One Life to Live, continued...*

### **Jesus' Incarnation—God's Provision for us to Overcome**

One of the reasons for the incarnation of Jesus Christ was to give mankind the power to overcome through the presence of the life of Christ in every believer. The incarnation of God's dear Son gave mankind the opportunity to be brought back into oneness with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; "that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so "that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21). Jesus' sacrifice provided the way back to the Father so that mankind's ability to fellowship with God could once again be unbroken and unwavering.

### **The Flesh Against the Spirit—the Ultimate Battle**

If we considered all the self-centered flesh patterns the average person has, we could write a book on just this topic—for Christians and non-Christians alike. Before we were born again, our self-life was all we had, and even after we are born again, we must continually choose to crucify "the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24). Years ago, a lady in the church we attended shared how she had asked the Lord if she was self-centered. He spoke to her heart and actually gave her nineteen characteristics of 'self' she still embraced. I lost contact with this sister before I was able to get a copy of the list, but there have been many times since then that I certainly have wished I had a copy of the list of the nineteen 'selves!'

From the time of conception, we began to develop methods of survival based on the stimulus we experienced in the environment of our mother's womb, as well as from the outside world around her. By the time we are adults, we have built "fortresses" around 'our-selves' that can only be demolished by the power of God. "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (II Corinthians 10:4). Any flesh patterns we have developed and continued to embrace over our lifetime for 'self-protection,' will hinder us from dismantling the fortresses within us. This is the battle of a lifetime, but victory is guaranteed if we do not give in to our flesh.

In the process of becoming Christ-centered, rather than self-centered, it is also important to remember 'there is always a ditch on both sides of the road' and—in this case—both ditches can keep us from our goal of Christlikeness. The first ditch is full of justifications for resignation that can sound like, "No one is perfect. Only God is perfect" or "It is hopeless. I've tried over and over again to get victory, but it is not working" or "As long as we are in this body, we cannot have victory over our flesh."

The second ditch is well-intentioned, and consequently harder to recognize as walking after the flesh. This pitfall could be especially dangerous for those who really care about being conformed into the image of Christ. I fell into this ditch years ago and the Lord graciously taught me a lesson we all need to learn. I was in the process of working myself into a depression by not forgiving myself for a shortcoming. Looking back, the shortcoming was relatively small but concerned me deeply at the time. As I busied myself, despising myself, the Lord spoke directly to my problem, "If you don't quit looking at yourself, I can't do a thing for you!" What an eye opener that was. As I switched from being 'self-centered' and began to look to Jesus to "perfect that which concerns me" (Psalm 138:8 NKJV), the shortcoming quickly began to change.

### **We Become What We Behold**

My personal experience of getting bogged down in a particular flesh pattern by looking at my own weaknesses rather than the strength of Christ within me is a natural example of an important spiritual truth. This principal is illustrated in II Corinthians 3:18.

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:18)*

Albert Barnes' notes on II Corinthians 3:18 give us a vivid picture of the importance of "beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord." It is possible there may be an allusion here to the effect which was produced by

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*You Only Have One Life to Live, continued...*

looking into an ancient mirror. Such mirrors were made of burnished metal, and the reflection from them was intense. If a strong light were thrown on these mirrors, the rays would be cast by reflection on the face of him who looked on the mirror, and the face would be strongly illuminated. The idea may very well be that the glory of God, the splendor of divine perfection, was thrown on the gospel (so to speak)—like a bright light on a polished mirror. That glory is reflected from the gospel on him who contemplates it, so that he may appear to be transformed into the same image. Locke renders it: “We are changed into his very image by a continued succession of glory, as it were, streaming upon us from the Lord.”<sup>1</sup>

Although the written word, illumined by the Holy Spirit, speaks to our hearts and shows us the character of Christ, I would like to stress the importance of the words, “the rays would be cast by reflection on the face of him who looked in the mirror.” When we look to the grace of God as our only hope of being transformed into the image of Christ—trusting in “the power of” the “indestructible life” within us for change (Hebrews 7:16)—we will gradually see the reflection of His likeness cast upon us. By meditating on scriptural truth and by spending time in His presence, His glory—His character—streams upon us like the rays of the sun. As the rays flow through us we are “changed into His very image by a continued succession of glory.”

Another witness of becoming what we behold was written by Madame Jeanne Guyon. She was a renowned teacher of the Christ-centered life in the mid-1600’s, and is still known today as one of the clearest teachers of the process of our transformation into the image of Christ. She expressed this truth with the following words: “As revelation comes to you, something happens; Jesus Christ actually makes an imprint of Himself upon your soul. Each time He comes to you, He leaves a new and different impression of His nature upon you. Soon there are many different expressions of His nature impressed into your being.”<sup>2</sup>

**There is nothing like Christianity. It is the only ‘belief’ that really gives its followers the power to change from within!**

### What Choices Will You Make?

Since one definition of the word ‘glory’ is the character of God, the verse “Christ in you the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27), is completely beyond the comprehension of the natural man and few will pay the price for the ‘process of transfiguration.’ This life is the only chance you will ever have to overcome the flesh by embracing the life of Christ within you for the power to overcome. What choices will you make?

There will always be more to life on this earth than you are currently experiencing, and there is certainly more to heaven than just ‘making it safely to the other side.’ The choices you make today will certainly affect the quality of your life on this earth, as well as the rewards you receive at the judgement seat of the righteous for the works done in the flesh. Will you be found faithful?

<sup>1</sup> Albert Barnes’ *Notes on the Bible, e-sword, II Corinthians 3:18*

<sup>2</sup> Jeanne Guyon, *Abandonment and Revelation, 100 Days in the Secret Place, Gene Edwards, pg 153*

**“The more we learn to function in the invisible, spiritual realm, recognizing and applying its governing principles, the more we can partner with God, positively impact our world, avoid the snares and influence of the evil one, and enjoy the blessings of our salvation.”**

*—Dutch Sheets, Give Him 15—An Appeal to Heaven Devotional, Vol. I, pg. 71*



## The Los Cabos Children's Foundation Fundraising Gala - 2023



Our friend Chris—a member of Richard's Kingdom Builders group, as well as a board member of the Los Cabos Children's Foundation—recently invited active Kingdom Builders and their wives to the foundation's annual fundraiser/gala. The event was hosted by the relatively new Solaz Los Cabos Resort on the tourist corridor between San Lucas and San Jose. This event was probably the most lavish and beautiful event we have ever attended. It was an incredible fundraiser, and because of Chris' generosity, a 'new frontier' was opened before us. All we can say is, "Thank you Chris!"

### A New Frontier

For most of my life, I was of the persuasion that if an organization was not Christ-centered, I certainly did not want to be involved in it. This didn't mean that all 'non-Christian' groups were bad, but since there are only so many hours in a day, I would concentrate on working with organizations where a relationship with Jesus Christ would be the main emphasis. Although this is still the case, scripture is clear about Christians needing the positive characteristics of "salt" (Matthew 5:17) and "light" (Matthew 5:14) in this dark, unsavory world.

On the day before the banquet, Richard took part in a tour of two of the ministries that are supported by the foundation. The first stop was Casa Hogar—the large, successful orphanage/youth home that was featured in the movie *Blue Miracle*. This facility is directed by a dear friend of ours from Cabo Church, Jason Stirrup. The second ministry toured was Rame, a day-facility used to train children and younger adults with severe incapacities—such as Autism, Downs Syndrome, Microcephalia, and other such disabilities—practical skills for everyday life. This group learning center also makes soaps and candles, which are sold to help offset the expenses of the program.

The last and most expensive initiative supported by the foundation is for heart defect surgeries. These surgeries take place at the children's hospital in La Paz. Heart defects are prevalent in Hispanic children, but especially in children under twelve in the southern Baja area. This group of children will usually die before age twelve without medical intervention. The foundation also funds treatment for many more maladies that would either lead to the children being handicapped or to death.

### The Handshake

This last paragraph may seem totally off subject, but this is a very important part of New Life Outreach's possible involvement with The Los Cabos Children's Foundation. During our weekly prayer team time, one of our intercessors told us to be on the lookout for a "special handshake." What this meant to us, was that there would be an important introduction to someone attending the evening's event. Richard and I take "words of knowledge" (I Corinthians 12:8) very seriously and we were 'watching and waiting' for that 'handshake' the entire evening. Then it happened; Richard was introduced to a man connected to the Municipality of Los Cabos mayor's office, who could possibly be a connection to getting the *Avanza sin Tranza* program started again. We had finally found the 'handshake' just as we were dismissed from the dinner. But then—as Richard and I were leaving the washroom near the valet parking service, Richard started talking to an older gentleman who has been involved in the foundation for many years, and this became 'handshake #2.' Last, but not least, this gentleman introduced us to a couple who were just walking up to him. The couple had recently moved to Grand Rapids, MI (our home town airport). This was a third 'handshake'—just as our car was pulling up.

On our way home from the gala, as Richard and I shared our impressions of the evening, we realized the Lord might have us volunteer someday at one of the foundation's initiatives, and we can assure all of our faithful supporters that we will be "salt" and "light" wherever we go!



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The Los Cabos Children's Foundation, continued...





## Alcoholics Anonymous Center—La Paz A Day of Ministry Training



One of Richard's men from the Kingdom Builder's group had a long talk with Richard and shared his desire to retire and spend the rest of his days investing in projects that would help the people of Los Cabos, would promote the gospel of Jesus Christ, and would help change the spiritual climate of our city. Brother Carlos hadn't even retired yet before a great need in Los Cabos surfaced. Cabo Church has been having a men's bible study on Thursday evenings, and one Thursday—not too long ago—a handful of the men from the bible study walked across the street after the study to check out a 'new' Alcoholics Anonymous facility. Much to Carlos' surprise, the director of the new meeting place, Timothy, used to work for him, and since they had last talked, Timothy had accepted the Lord.

Timothy asked Carlos to minister at the center the following week. He and Richard talked, and Richard started a short training series for the small group of men who would be involved in personal ministry at that AA facility. When the meeting time arrived, the handful of men were ready for action. There were around 32 men and women present and they all desired ministry prayer. The night was very successful and the participants, as well as prayer workers, were deeply touched.



Carlos' meeting with Timothy led to two ministry opportunities. The first was the restoration of the AA facility in Los Cabos. When Carlos saw the condition of the facility, he immediately ordered what was needed to repair the building, as well as what was needed to refurbish and bring the facility back to full use. This restoration is happening as I write! During this time, Timothy also asked Carlos if he was interested in taking a look at the AA facility in La Paz (the capital of Baja California Sur, which is around a two-hour drive from Los Cabos).

All of this led to Carlos being asked to minister at the AA facility in La Paz. Carlos invited a handful of men and asked Richard to train them, as well as come with them to the 'all day' excursion to La Paz. Every man in the facility wanted personal ministry.

Approximately 120 men received ministry and the relatively new 'prayer team' was ecstatic over the wonderful ministry experience. To top this off, Carlos was compelled to buy all new mattresses for the facility, as well as to meet other physical needs the facility had!

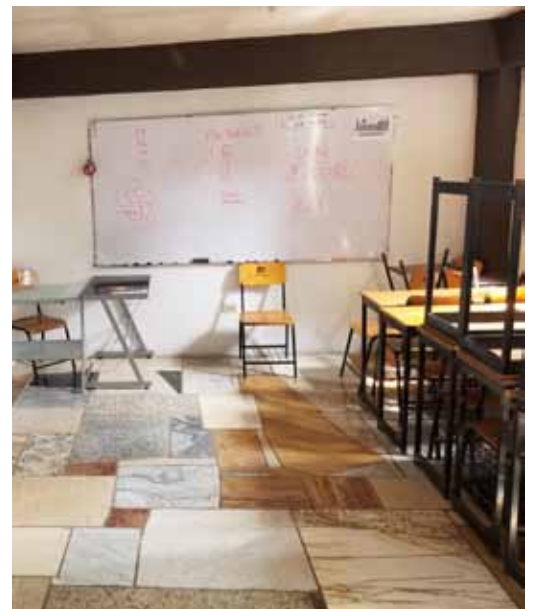
The Los Cabos Children's Foundation event with our friend Chris was our first official Kingdom Builder's event; with Carlos' Alcohol Anonymous' connections being next. Neither one of these endeavors is 'Christian' in themselves, but when 'salt and light' invade earth, the cause of the Kingdom of Heaven is advanced. Please continue to pray for both of these organizations!



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Alcoholics Anonymous, continued...



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Alcoholics Anonymous, continued...





## Cristo es el Camino—Big Top Delivery Delay



Not that this should be surprising—in life, let alone in Mexico—but there has been an ‘undefined’ delay in the delivery of the (new for Cristo es el Camino) tent. The Christian brother who runs a traveling circus cannot sell his existing tent to Pastor Carlos until his new tent is delivered. The transaction was originally estimated to take place at the end of February, but (to date) we do not even have an estimated time of delivery.

On a fun note—in the midst of possibly discouraging news—Pastor Carlos thought ahead and recorded videos of the erection of the tent as a form of “buyer’s

manual” for his men to go by when they have to erect this giant tent in its new location.

Meanwhile, the good news is the church hasn’t outgrown the old tent currently in use, which is on loan from the Assembly of God denomination. To date, the tent is still theirs to use.

Please continue to pray for this project. This tent is not just for “crusade use” but is actually the structure for Cristo es el Camino when all of the church plants meet in one place for their combined Sunday services.

We will let you know as soon as the giant big top arrives back in Los Cabos!



## 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](http://www.newlifeoutreach.us)

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