



November 2023

# His Leading

**Welcome!** Welcome to the 2023 New Life Outreach newsletter. It is our goal to keep friends, family and supporters up-to-date as far as what God is doing through New Life Outreach. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact [info@newlifeoutreach.us](mailto:info@newlifeoutreach.us) or visit us at [www.newlifeoutreach.us](http://www.newlifeoutreach.us).

This is our first newsletter since Rhonda's (mom's) passing, which even as I write is a challenge in and of itself. It is a challenge I am grateful for, though. God is providing opportunity for me to press into Him, for Him to comfort me, and for me to overcome—leaning into Him during times of grief and disappointed expectations. The alternative path many take is to just get busy and go on. In God's grace, though, He has provided a means for me to press in, receive healing, and has even provided an opportunity to bear my cross and to overcome. Let's not let such opportunities pass us by! As mom always said, if we don't learn from this one, God is faithful to repeat the lesson until we do. What a patient Father we have! I am determined to yield and, through grace, I pray I glean all He is teaching me the first time. As François Fénelon once penned, "Do not reject the full work that the power of the cross could accomplish in you. Unfortunately, you will be forced to go over the same ground again and again. Worse yet, you will suffer much, but your suffering will have no purpose."<sup>1</sup>

Aiding in this transition has been the incredible love and support you have been pouring out these past few months. While it is has most certainly been difficult, we are confident in God's goodness and in His timing—even when we don't fully understand. We continue to press in and ask for ears to hear and eyes to see, that we may see it as He sees it and that we may live and move as He moves.

With that in mind, one of the questions many have asked dad these past few months is what he will be doing next. Dad is diligently seeking God for His vision and direction. He is not sure what the future holds, but he does know the last indication was that he was not released from Mexico yet, and so he is currently back in Mexico. He is resolved to take one day at a time—seeking God's direction each step of the way. Please be sure to pray for dad and continue to call, encourage, and support him as he continues on with all that God has called him to.

For those who were not able to attend mom's funeral service, a recording is available on EverRest's Facebook page. A link is shown here: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Ever-Rest-Funeral-Home-Chapel-100054510397382/>  
Thank you again for your love and support. The fruit of mom's life has been evident these past several months, and has been such a blessing to see. *-Amber Hogancamp (one of Richard & Rhonda Mead's daughters)*

<sup>1</sup>Edwards, Gene. "100 Days in the Secret Place: Classic Writings from Madame Guyon, Francois Fenelon, and Michael Molinos on the Deeper Christian Life." 15 September 2015. Destiny Image.

## New Life Outreach



*This article was mom's final newsletter missive. We all have just one life to live.  
For Whose glory are we living? What fruit are we bearing? Here was mom's final challenge to 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.**

## **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.

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

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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*



*Now it's my turn. Before I opened the last newsletter and saw the title of mom's article and knew we needed to reissue her final challenge, God had laid a message on my heart. I tend to be the writer on the team, so this is my attempt at tackling the newsletter missive. Let's see how it goes... Amber*

## All We Are for All He Is

*"...For I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow."  
— Jeremiah 31:13b*

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." — Matthew 5:4*

The Lord promises to turn our mourning into joy (Jeremiah 31:13). He further calls those who mourn blessed (Matthew 5:4). I've known these verses most of my life, having grown up in a strong Christian home. These promises have taken on new meaning these past couple of months, though, as I have dealt with the loss of my mom. She was not only my mom, but one of my best friends, and one of my closest intercessors. We worked together in life and ministry. I miss her wisdom and insight. God's Word will not return void, though. He will accomplish all that He has said (Isaiah 55:11)—and that includes turning my mourning into joy!

*"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.—Isaiah 55:11*

That's hard to picture sometimes, isn't it? Well, hold on, because there's more. Surviving—making it through—is not God's intention for us. No! He calls us to overcome! He brings us comfort. He turns our sorrow into joy. He also gives us the opportunity to overcome; to die to ourselves (Galatians 2:20) and to lay that which we hold dear at His feet that we might become bond slaves to Christ, that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.—Galatians 2:20*

*"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."—2 Corinthians 5:21*

French Archbishop François Fénelon challenged me with this truth in one of his writings. He wrote, "**God loves a cheerful giver. (See Second Corinthians 9:7.) Imagine how much He must love those who abandon themselves to His will cheerfully and completely—even if it results in their crucifixion!**"<sup>1</sup> I would add, especially when it results in our crucifixion! God is looking for a people who choose to follow Him, to yield to His will, and to be conformed into His image. It is these times of trials when we are afforded the greatest opportunity to yield all we are for all He is—and to do so as a cheerful giver!

That is how mourning is turned into ultimate joy—by yielding to the One Who carries us through all things, Who is faithful to form us into His image, Who is faithful to care more about our character than our comfort. Will we allow Him to work through any circumstances? Through all circumstances? Let's not waste these circumstances. Let's abandon all we are for all He is. Then, truly, our mourning will be turned to joy.

-Amber Hogancamp

<sup>1</sup>Edwards, Gene. "100 Days in the Secret Place: Classic Writings from Madame Guyon, Francois Fenelon, and Michael Molinos on the Deeper Christian Life." 15 September 2015. Destiny Image.

*Here's a look at what dad's has been up to. In addition to discipling through Kingdom Builders and in the market place, dad has been regularly ministering at the rehabilitation center in La Paz.*

## Until the Whole World Hears Gideons Donate Spanish Bibles to New Life Outreach

While in Michigan this summer, Gideon Wayne Kauffman of Newaygo blessed New Life Outreach with 60 bibles, along with a donation to support the ministry and the dispersal of the bibles. The Gideons first donated bibles last spring, donating 100 small Spanish New Testaments. These bibles were shipped to the Instituto Samarin Christian School, a small Christian school in Los Cabos. As we have found over the years, though, things don't always go as planned in Mexico.



The Mexican Postal Service received the shipment of bibles and tried to deliver them to the school after it was closed for the day. For some reason, a note was not left and the bibles went back to the post office—getting lost in the shuffle without anyone ever being contacted. So, after waiting an extended period of time for the bibles to arrive and after having checked with the school several times, Richard (dad) was finally able to track the shipment down with a tracking number and discovered they were at the Post Office. Unfortunately, the Post Office proceeded to require an import duty on the package, which to dad's chagrin was around \$40 U.S. dollars. He was glad to have the bibles in his hands, though—although only for a moment as the Post Office then explained he could not pay the import duty there, but would instead have to leave the

bibles until the fee was paid at a bank down the street. After he returned with a receipt, he was finally able to take the bibles to the school. The founder and director of the school is Demos Samarin, who is also a Gideon. Demos was not there when dad arrived, but he was able to leave the package with the secretary. She was excited to receive the bibles! After that adventure, though, dad returned to carrying the bibles to Mexico in suitcases, as they had done previously, rather than ship them.

With the current printing of the Gideon Bibles still in process, Wayne personally purchased the most recent donation of 60 Spanish New Testaments. Dad filled a suitcase, maxing out the 50lb limit, and headed off to Los Cabos. These bibles were brought to the Men's rehabilitation center in La Paz, a city approximately two-hours north of Los Cabos.

The rehabilitation center is an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) center ran by a Catholic couple—Rodrigo and Mama Rosita. The center focuses on rehabilitation from addictions and is similar to Teen Challenge. The program itself, though, is a little different in that once a person is admitted, they remain in the program until their family or the center sees they are ready to move on to a halfway house or back into regular life. Rehabilitation centers are available for teens, men, and women.



Dad has been ministering with Marcos Vasquez, his wife Crystal, Escary, his wife Diana, and Pastor Abel and his wife at the rehabilitation center on Saturdays. On Saturday, September 7, dad brought the bibles to the men, who were also thrilled to have a personal copy of God's word! They have been proudly bringing their bibles to the services since. Pictured here are the men proudly displaying their bibles.

Thank you to Wayne and to the Gideons for their support of the ministry and their continued efforts to made the Word of God available—until the whole world hears!

## Ministering Bilingually

Richard has had the privilege of ministering at a rehabilitation center in La Paz, a city approximately two hours north of Los Cabos, for the past several weeks. Dad, along with Marcos Vasquez, his wife Crystal, Escary, his wife Diana, and Pastor Abel and his wife, have been making the trip each Saturday to minister to the men. Escary and Pastor Abel minister in music, with the team taking turns preaching and praying for the men (as time allows).



Dad first made the trip to the rehabilitation center with Marcos' brother Carlos. Carlos was connected to the rehabilitation center through a former employee of his who had been through the program and is currently running an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program in Los Cabos. When visiting the La Paz center, Carlos saw their need and was moved to purchase 90 bunk beds and mattresses, as well as an industrial stove for the center. Carlos, Marcos, and dad then began to put together a group to travel to the center to minister to the men. After all, there is one way to true freedom and that is through Jesus Christ!

Dad had the opportunity to preach once again to the men on Saturday, September 23. His message centered on the value of knowing Christ (Phillipians 3:7-9):

*“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.” – Phillipians 3:7-9, NASB*

While preparing the message, dad practiced the sermon in both Spanish and English so that he could preach bi-lingually, serving as his own translator. Several men have translated for dad through the years, but dad was eager to maintain the flow of the message by seamlessly transitioning between languages. It is still a work-in-progress, but one dad is eagerly embracing as he shares all God has laid on his heart.



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## **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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